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CHILDREN IN NEED

Nigella Lawson asks who is fit to be an adoptive parent PAGE 17



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BMA fears checks may be refused

Life insurers demand gene test results

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY AND JEREMY LAURANCE

PEOPLE applying for life insurance are to be required to disclose if they have taken genetic tests to predict whether they are at risk of inherited

The ruling yesterday by the British Association of Insurers - which will apply to all life cover including endowments. mortgage protection policies and personal pensions - is likely to mean higher premi-ums or even a refusal of cover for some people, even though they may be in good health

when they apply.

Doctors immediately expressed fears that people would be deterred from seeking tests that might save their lives, and there were also concerns last night that the policy would create an uninsurable underclass.

At the moment, only a few thousand people undergo genetic screening each year, with tests concentrating on specific genes linked to diseases such as cystic fibrosis and Huntinghave begun to identify gene combinations associated with more common conditions such and doctors believe that screening will become as routine as measuring blood pres-

sure within a decade. Such screening could predict people's vulnerability to other conditions where there is believed to be a genetic factor including diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure, ulcers and Alzheimer's — allowing them to start early treatment which could prevent disability and even save their lives.

In the face of such advances, the British Medical Associ-

ation expressed reservations about the insurers' announceinsistence in the 1980s that anyone who had an HIV test should declare it, even if the result were negative. The BMA was concerned about the increasing use of health infor-

mation for non-health purposes and worried that complex information could be misinterpreted. We would be concerned if people were discouraged from finding out more about their health needs because of fears about the social implications of taking a test," a spokeswoman said. The National Consumer

Council said that the new policy could create a pile of rejects. "By using genetic test information when assessing risks, insurance companies could create an ever-increasing ghetto of uninsurable people. People with inherited diseases and their descendants could be denied cover and the idea that insurance is about pooling risk would fly

A number of insurance companies were also concerned an excuse for refusing cover or making it prohibitively expensive. Peter Robertson of the Edinburgh-based Standard Life said that it would not seek the results of genetic tests for the forseeable future. "It is more important to Standard Life that we are not seen to hinder medical research. Geneticists felt this requirement to disclose results might put people off taking such tests. This leads to concerns that insurers might slow down the pace at which research would

proceed, preventing from being developed." But the Association of British Insurers defended its deciadding that companies needed to gather information on test results to enable them to "monitor developments and guage any financial impaci". Special arrangements were necessary to protect com-

people at high risk.

The association did, however, say that there would be a two-year moratorium during which test results would not be used against applicants for life policies linked to mortgages up to £100,000. Nor would anyone be compelled to take a genetic test - as is common practice in America — before 1999. Tony Baker, the association's deputy director general, said that the two-year gap would enable the industry to "reassess developments in the fast-changing world of medi-

He dismissed the notion of an insurance underclass and said that genetic testing would "Il someone has a positive test and it shows them to be more liable to a particular disease. they can change their lifestyle, stop drinking or stop smoking. As a result, we will have a healthier population and lower insurance premiums because of a reduced death rate

as people live longer."

Mr Baker's association has 440 members. Last year there were 5.4 million applications for new life assurance policies, and the total value of premiums paid was £45 billion.





Michael Allcock before his conviction at the Old Bailey yesterday, which means he could be sentenced to seven years in jail, and his wife Sally

Corrupt tax inspector faces jail

By Tim Jones and Bill Frost

AN unprecedented Inland Revenue anti-corruption operation is continuing after a senior investigator was found breathtaking" scale. Michael Allcock faces jail

when sentenced today after being convicted at the Old Bailey of accepting cash from ioreign businessmen to fund a life of luxury, lust and deceit.

His betrayal of trust has prompted a clampdown at the Inland Revenue in an effort to ensure that the department's reputation is never again smeared by erring inspectors corrupted by the wealth with which they come into contact. Allcock, 47, from Colchester,

cleared on five other counts. He had denied all 11 charges and was stony-faced as a jury of six women and five men the verdicts after 35 hours and 48 minutes of deliberation. spanning 64 days.

Last night his wife insisted that he was not corrupt. Sally Allcock, 44, said that the years since her husband's suspension had been an enormous strain on the family, but she had come to regard the "saga" as just another hurdle in a sometimes troubled life. "I feel that we have had four long gruelling years and it's been like a sentence in itself." She added that public reve-

charges of corruption, but affair with Michelle Corrigan, a prostitute and model, had been painful, but that she and her husband had overcome the initial impact. "It did been through so much in the past that really this didn't seem too bad really, what with

me being ill in past years. "At the beginning, I didn't like it at all. I really feel you just have to be strong. I believe in Michael and I've just been very strong through the whole thing." Asked before the verdicts whether she thought her husband had done anything wrong, she said: "No I don't. I just feel he just wants to get the truth out, but it's been very difficult."

prosecution, had told the court that Allcock had "abused his position with the Inland Revenue and betrayed its integrity for his personal enrichment". he was convicted of accepting the services of Ms Corrigan as a bribe from Hisham Alwan, an Iraqi-born oil consultant. Alwan, 56, from

Knightsbridge, central London, was also convicted on one charge of corruption, but cleared on two other charges. He had denied all three.

During the four-month trial which, with the investigation, is estimated to have cost £8 million, the jury heard how Allcock had protected wealthy businessmen whom he was

seen by some as flamboyant way and became a law unto himself."

Allcock headed a special Inland Revenue department known as the Ghostbusters He targeted extremely wealthy foreigners, mainly Arabs, known as "ghosts" because they never registered for tax. Instead of demanding full tax payments from some, he readily accepted their bribes and pocketed at least

£155,000 in cash. Several inspector-level col Continued on page 2. col |

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EU to condemn Britain over BSE

The European Parliament is expected to condemn Britain's handling of the BSE epidemic and urge court proceedings against Douglas Hogg, the agriculture minister. A report by a parliamentary inquiry also censures the EU Commission...... Page 2

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Labour to repeal gay law

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

JACK STRAW, the Shadow Home Secretary, will today commit a Labour government to repealing controversial Conservative legislation which was seen as an attack on homosexual rights.

The pledge to kill off Section 28 of the Local Government Act, which bans local authorities from portraying homosex-uality in a positive light, will be made by Mr Straw on the third anniversary of MPs voting to lower the homosexual age of consent from 21 to 18. The declaration will delight the Labour Left but will be seized on by right-wing Tories who will argue that the move is a signal that a Tony Blair-

led government will be too

liberal on moral issues. A

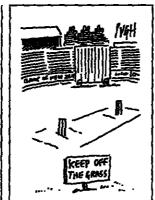
senior Tory Party source said last night. It is a sop to the politically correct brigade which is already returning to left-wing town halls."

Section 28, which was opposed by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, prohibits local authorities and schools from publishing material for the promotion of homosexuality. Teachers were forbidden to represent homosexuality as an accepted form of family life and town halls were restricted from giving financial support or assistance to anyone wishing to convey homosexuality in a positive light. There have been no prosecutions to date. Section 28 became a cause cèlèbre for the libertarian left and provoked a series of

clashes with gay

campaigners.
More than 70 artists led by Sir Ian McKellen, Simon Callow, and Nigel Hawthorn, of Yes Minister fame, took to the stage to protest against the government crackdown which they argued was censorship of the arts and an attack on the homosexual community.

Mr Straw will deliver his keynote speech tonight at a meeting of Stonewall, the organisation which campaigns for homosexual equality, at the House of Commons. Mr Straw, who along with Mr Blair voted for 16 to be the age of homosexual consent in the debate in February 1994. has been a long-standing champion of homosexual law reform.



Tufnell denial

Philip Tuinell, the England bowler, denied smoking can-nabis in a Christchurch bar on the eve of England's victory in the third Test. The team management backed his

Tory gun rebels defeated

By Polly Newton and Richard Ford

overturned by 394 votes to 115. Several rebels said last night

that they hoped the Lords

would continue their cam-

paign and send the Bill back to

the Commons again. Peers

worst backbench revolts of the present Parliament last night as more than 100 Tory MPs voted against three key parts of its gun control legislation. Five former Cabinet minis-ters, including John Redwood, were among the Tories who defied a three-line whip to back an amendment passed in the Lords that would have allowed owners of .22 calibre weapons to keep parts of their guns at home. They would have been allowed to take their weapons apart to make them safe instead of storing them in gun club armouries. Michael Howard, the Home

in having the amendment

THE Government suffered its

Secretary, with the support of many Labour MPs, succeeded

will consider the Firearms (Amendment) Bili again tomorrow. The other former Cabinet ministers defying the Government were John Mac-Gregor, Tom King, John Bif-fen and Michael Jopling. There was an even larger rebellion over a Lords move to give compensation to gun dealers who will lose business

as a result of the legislation. The Government had the amendment overturned by 319 votes to 140, with more than 100 Tory backbenchers defying the whips. Mr Howard told MPs that the amendment would have extended the arrangements for compensation beyond anything which we have seen before in comparable circumstances".

In a third vote, MPs voted by 305 to 145, a majority of 160, to throw out a Lords move to give compensation to gun clubs forced out of business by the legislation.
Tony Marlow, MP for

Northampton North, said that the Government and Labour had lined up against the Tory parry in the .22 weapons division. There was surprise that seven Liberal Democrats, including Paddy Ashdown, had voted for the Lords amendment. Twelve Labour

MPs also supported it.

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Alluring foreign model some might not want to take home

foreign lady entered the A Commons fray at Prime Minister's Questions yesterday. The Tories accused Labour's Robin Cook of taking his responsibilities (for "Foreign Affairs') too far and

cancodling with her.

Absent from the Chamber, he was to be found (claimed Alan Duncan, MP for Rutland & Melton) "at home with her". And if they had their way, suggested Duncan, a lot of

mysterious and alluring his Right Hon Friend the ter to answer? Well, said Prime Minister ever been at home with her? Was he at home with her now? Mr Major looked bemused.

Many think that when God saw how small Alan Duncan was going to be. He made him Bolshie to compensate. But I believe that when God saw how Bolshie Mr Duncan was going to turn out, He made him tiny to limit the damage. Imagine an MP with Nicholas Soames's frame and Alan Duncan's nature. How was the Prime MinisMajor, he was "self-evidently not at home" with this model.

should be named, and was yesterday, by Mr Duncan. She is the European Social Model. It is with her that Robin Cook admits to being at home, and John Major denies cohabita-tion. She has been in all the newspapers and is accused of subverting the German workforce. Duncan finished his with a claim (Labour's tax plans) which echoed not just the spirit but



the letter of a new Tory poster. Labour backbenchers par-rot, likewise, their own party's sters: "You can't trust the Tories on tax," etc. The parliamentary plankton on both sides do so on the whispered instructions of spin doctors. The aim of these night creatures is to scatter across their backbenches the seed of ranquotes so that each day produces a reliable crop of TV. radio and press soundbites which are "on-message To this, then, has the Mother of Parliaments now come: MPs debate by shouting out quotations from their parties'

roadside billboards. Truly, the dumbing down of Westminster is complete. John Major promised Alan Duncan never to touch the offending lady. Who needs a European Social Model when he has Norma?

The finger of suspicion had touched Tony Blair, too. "Where were you last night?" shouted the Tories as he slunk in, rather guiltily, just in time for PM's Questions. At the division 17 hours earlier. Mr Blair had been strangely missing from his place on the Front Bench when the tellers marched in with unwelcome arithmetic for Labour whips, after the vote on BSE. By his own side he was greeted yesterday not so much with a cheer as a whimper.

Mr Blair came back hard with some powerful questions on profiteering after railway privatisation. To them Mr Major had no answer, but his own side cheered him lustily anyway. For the moment he

could do no wrong. Nor could Andrew Robathan (C. Blaby), who had learnt about the way Robin Cook slapped down his party's

too-hastily-touted proposals to privatise the Tote. Had the PM studied the form for the fiveo'clock at Market Rasen?" asked Robathan. There was a horse running "called Pause

nhook mjan ndvick

For Thought". "Fell at the first fence," said Мајог. We moved to Devolution.

Thursday's debate, the Prime Minister told the Commons, should be "an opportunity for detailed and sensible discus-sion". "What? Here?" cried Dennis Skinner Skinner is off-message.

Euro-MPs direct anger at Britain over BSE crisis

By Charles Bremner, in Brussels, and Andrew Pierce

BRITAIN will bear the brunt of the European Union's anger over "mad cow" disease today when the European Parliament votes to condemn London's handling of the BSE epidemic. calls for repayment of EU compensation and seeks court proceedings against Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister

The harsh judgment is set out in a report by a parliamentary inquiry that also blames the European Commission for incompetence and negligence. In an attempt to head off a possible vote of censure, Jacques Santer, the President of the Commission, yesterday went further than before in conceding mistakes in Brus-

He ridiculed British claims that BSE was an act of nature and blamed the epidemic on a greedy farm industry that had turned cows into "cannibals". In a move to defuse its conflict with the Commission, the Parliament is expected to suspend a possible vote of censure and give M Santer until November to reform its ways.

Downing Street yesterday dismissed the report as illinformed "tosh". It is expected to be passed with a large majority in Strasbourg today.
"It is a flawed piece of work." said a spokesman. "There are a great number of factual errors and misunderstanding of the UK's approach to BSE." The report, drafted under Spanish and German leadership, lambasted London for conducting an irresponsible policy over BSE from the mid-1980s until late last year. Britain, it argued, stacked Brussels committees with its

The Parliament will endorse a call by the inquiry committee

own experts, ensuring that the

disease was neglected for

for the Commission to enforce the repayment of £500 million compensation paid to British farmers for the slaughter of cattle. The report calls for the Commission to order Mr Hogg before the European Court for delying a summons

to appear before the inquiry. But aides of Mr Hogg said last night that he had invited committee members to meet him for lunch when they came to London in December. They declined to meet him," said one official.

Mr Hogg was given unanimous Cabinet support, backed



in Britain's defence

by advice from the Government's law officers, not to go before the European committee of inquiry. "It was not a request from the committee, it was a summons. Ministers of the Crown are answerable to the House of Commons. It was unanimously agreed by the Cabinet that Douglas Hogg should not go. We provided every piece of documentation they sought," he added. A spokesman for M Santer

said the call for repayment would not be followed up because there was no legal basis and it would penalise British farmers directly. MEPs argued that their demands have served as a strong public rebuke for the Commission and especially

condemnation has added to difficulties in restoring British beef's reputation in Europe. Pauline Green, the British MEP who heads the Socialist group, condemned the Government but added that the Commission was "culpable". 'Its procedures were sham-

for Britain. The parliamentary

bolic," she said. A rare voice in Britain's defence was raised by Lord Plumb, the Conservative MEP who sat on the committee of inquiry. "The idea that within the Commission there has been some sort of British conspiracy is utterly fanciful and unworthy of report in this House," he said.

Downing Street released the text of a strongly-worded letter from Sir Stephen Wall, Britain's permanent representa-tive in Brussels, to Reimer Boge, the German MEP who chaired the inquiry. He said that the Government had spent £60 million on research into BSE and related diseases since 1986. He said it was "absurd" and "insulting" to accuse scientists, who had conducted groundbreaking research, of being engaged in a

The tone of the report infuriated Tory Eurosceptic MPs. David Heathcoat Amory, the former Paymaster General, said: "The fact that they had a chance to meet Douglas Hogg in London, when they were here, and turned it down shows the scale of their arrogance. They only want it on their terms. In Brussels, this is all about their own self-



Sir George Gardiner leaving court yesterday

MP loses court fight against deselection

By James Landale, Political Reporter

CONSERVATIVE MP Sir George Gardiner lost his latest attempt to remain in Parliament when a High Court judge yesterday refused to overturn his deselection. Members of his Reigate

party ousted the veteran Eurosceptic at a special general meeting in the Surrey constituency on January 30 after the MP criticised the Prime Minister. Lawyers for Sir George claimed that the Reigate Conservative Association had no power, under its rules, to deselect him. And they argued that even if the association did have the pow-

er, they went about it. wrong way. However, Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor of the Chancery Division, ruled that the association had every right to deselect their prospective parliamentary candidate and rejected Sir George's writ demanding that the deselec-tion be declared void.

There is nothing in the rules that bars a deselection process by a general meeting," Sir Richard told the court. After the judgment, Sir George, 61, said he would not appeal but insisted he didgest regret taking legal actività

Nursery school failings common

BY DAVID CHARTER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE most far-reaching investigation of education standards for four-year-olds has found shortcomings in almost half of the nursery schools

Basic literacy education was found to be weak in one in five nursery groups and in one in four for mathematics. The results, from more than 320 centres in the four trial areas of the Government's nursery voucher scheme, camé a week before parents of all four-yearolds will begin receiving vouchers to use from April.

More than 500,000 families have so far applied for the vouchers, worth £1,100 towards the cost of a nursery place for a year. Parents can exchange them for state nursery or reception places or top them up for private education. Labour called the findings dire" but the Government said it was pleased that the majority of classes had been given a clean bill of health.

The Pre-School Playgroups Alliance said it was impressed that four in five nurseries passed their inspection for literacy, given their record of being underfunded.

Inspectors found "overall strengths" in 55 per cent of the groups, which were in school reception classes, playgroups and private and voluntary London boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea, Wandsworth and Westminster. However, almost all the playgroups and nurseries will continue to be eligible for the vouchers. The 45 per cent with "weaknesses". will have to show improvements when they are inspected again within two years..

The inspectors concluded: "Sound practice and provision are sufficiently widespread to show that all types of institutions are able to meet the requirements of the scheme. It is true, however, that weaknesses are also widespread.

New steps against art smugglers ruled out

The Government yesterday refused to impose new controls on the smuggling of art treasures into Britain, despite allegations that staff at Sotheby's had been involved in the illegal export of an 18th-century painting and that the practice is widespread within the art trade. It is not against British law to import antiquities that have been illegally excavated and exported from their countries of origin. Lord Inglewood, the junior National Heritage minister, told the Lords at Question Time: "We believe the London art market is important for this country and we wish to maintain its position," He urged proper self-regulation.

Lottery grant for river banks

The biggest lottery grant awarded to a public arts scheme will be used to line the banks of the Tyne and Wear with sculpture. Works by international artists and local amateurs will transform the riversides after yesterday's announcement by the Arts Council that the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation is to receive £3.58 million, the largest of 49 lottery awards totalling almost £11 million.

Gales kill lorry driver

Strong winds and rain that swept Britain yesterday, killing a lorry driver, will continue into the weekend, the Met Office said last night. Drivers were told to take extra care as felled trees and power cables caused chaos on the roads and large vehicles were toppled by gusts of up to 60mph. After a quieter period this morning, winds will sweep across the country from the west.

Swiss trip for Bosnian girl

The Bosnian orphan girl at the centre of an adoption dispute is to fly out to Switzerland to see her natural grandfather after a High Court judge ruled she should be raised by her British foster parents. Lawyers acting for the extended family of four-year-old Edita Keranovic said yesterday that they were still considering an appeal against the decision that the child should stay with Alan and Deborah Fowler.

Killer rapist gets life

A rapist was given a life sentence yesterday for murdering a counsellor who had visited him in prison. Tony Hallett, 39. subjected his 58 year-old victim to a sex attack almost Exeter Crown Court, Hallett, of Letchworth, Hertfordshire, admitted raping and killing Ruth Hunt after he went to her home and she invited him in for advice and a cup of tea.

Four arrested in Irish raids

Police in the Irish Republic arrested four men yesterday during a series of anti-terrorist raids. Armed police seized homemade detonating cord similar to that used in IRA attacks in London, Germany and Northern Ireland. A police spokesman said the cords would be examined by forensic scientists in Dublin. The four men were arrested in Co Westmeath and on the Co Waterford and Tipperary border.

Silent vigil in Dunblane

Families of the victims of the Dunblane massacre will hold a silent vigil on the site of the gym where 16 children and a teacher were killed to mark the first anniversary of the shootings. Dunblane Primary School will be closed until 10.30am on March 13 to allow relatives to grieve in private. The only public show of sorrow will be at 7pm when white candles will be lit in the windows of homes across the town.

Kidnapped baby found

A British missionary was reunited with her 14-month-old adopted son four days after he was kidnapped from the family home in the Malawian city of Blantyre. Timothy Funnell was found unharmed by two schoolboys on a niverbank. The baby, who is at the centre of a custody battle in South Africa, was adopted last year by Julia Funnell, 30, from Bow, east London, and her husband Barry.

Soccer fans win damages

Five Irish soccer fans who sued the Football Association of Ireland for injuries sustained when rioting erupted at the match between England and Ireland in Dublin in 1995 accepted out-of-court settlements at the city's Circuit Civil Court. The FAI agreed to pay an undisclosed sum to the men who claimed they suffered serious injuries when English fans rioted at Landsdowne Road.

Tax inspector guilty of corruption is facing jail

Continued from page ! leagues now face an internal disciplinary inquiry as a result of the scandal easily the most serious corruption incident the Revenue has faced - with possible sanctions ranging up to and including dismissal.

In addition, there has been a major overhaul of supervisory procedures so opportunities for abusing the system are severely restricted. Inspectors are now obliged to decline all but the most petty gifts, hospitality or entertainment. Only trivial items such as diaries can be accepted. There is much tighter control on overseas travel - only about 20 trips in all were made last year and they must never be at the expense of a suspected tax evader.

Staff movement between offices has

inspectors developing excessively lengthy relationships with suspects. When promoted to the grade of group leader, the rank enjoyed by Allcock, senior inspectors are no longer allowed to head up an office in which they have worked.

The Revenue insisted that, in any case. Alloock never enjoyed the latitude of which he boasted during his trial. He told the Old Bailey that he worked to his own rules but, in theory at least, in any case in which the suspected tax evader was believed to have owed more than £150,000, he was supposed to refer his proposed settlement upwards, to a principal inspector.

The procedural tightening was part-ly a reaction to the Allcock case, and

partly an outcome of the 1992 merger of the Revenue's Special Offices with its Inquiry Branch, forming the Special Compliance Office — nicknamed the Ghostbusters. That office is tasked with investigating cases of serious tax fraud and evasion outside the scope of local offices because of their size or complexity. It seeks to recover the lost tax, with interest and penalties where due, and in particularly serious cases to institute criminal proceedings. In

1995-96 it recovered £354 million. The Old Bailey heard how Allcock accepted foreign travel, meals in expensive restaurants and other favours worth tens of thousands of

One of his rewards was a £22,000 "holiday of a lifetime" with his family to Bermuda with Concorde flights. The trip was paid for by Ara Oztenel, an American-based Armenian business man who had been assessed as liable for £2 million in British tax. Allcock, who could face a maximum

of seven years in jail, yesterday had his bail withdrawn by Judge Beaumont and was led down to the cells. Before the verdicts, he had protested his innocence. The scatter gun approach of these charges show how desperate they were to get me. All I care about is my wife and son Benjamin.

They [the Inland Revevue] were always niggardly in their praise. They always wanted the wine glass filled but when you went out from scratch and got it half-filled that was an achievement they may never have gained."

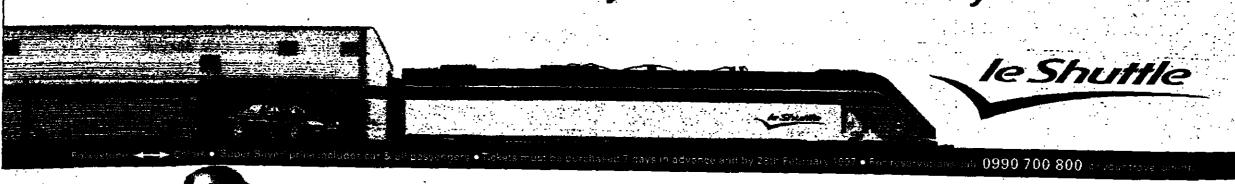




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Doctors help

boy hooked

on jam

sandwiches

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD who eat other things almost every

mealtime. But he just used to

make himself sick. In the end

it was so stressful that we could not carry on trying to

treatment, Craig slowly began

to get over his fear of food over

a six-month period by playing with it and eventually taking

tiny bites. Now, in common

with most other children, his

favourites are chips, baked

beans, pizzas, pancakes and

Mandy Bryon, consultant

clinical psychologist at Great

Ormand Street, said it was

normal for children to be

faddy about food at 'some

stage, but Craig's case was fairly exceptional.

from a fear of food, probably

going back to when he first

started eating solids as a baby

and gagged on some lumps.

We encouraged him to become

familiar with it through touching it and eventually tasting

Astonishingly, Craig has never had a filling in his life, while his five-year-old sister

Amy, who eats normally, has

two. Mrs Flatman said last

night. "He still has a long way

to go, but he is trying new

things every day and getting more confident with food.

But he has still not given

up jam completely. I allow

him one round of jam sand-

wiches in his school packed

lunch and another of cheese

Mrs Flatman added.

"I think his problem stems

ate nothing but jam sand-

finally managed to beat his

addiction after hospital treat-

Craig Flatman, from Stow-market, Suffolk, refused to eat

anything other than strawber-

ry or raspberry jam with

margarine on two slices of white bread after developing an aversion to solid food as a

baby.
After chomping through about 20,000 jam sandwiches.

his despairing mother Almira finally took her son to see specialists at Great Ormand

Street Hospital for Children and, with gentle persuasion. Craig has now tasted fruit,

meat and vegetables for the

Yesterday, Mrs Flatman, 35,

recalled how she got through

five loaves of bread and two

jars of jam every week making her son nine rounds of

iam sandwiches for his break-

fast, lunch and dinner every

day. "He used to insist that I

cut the crusts off, only use soft

margarine and soft-set jam

because he did not want

anything with lumps in," Mrs

He refused to eat solid food

as a baby until, when he was

nine months, his father Alan

fed him a sandwich with a:

sugar filling. It led to an initial

infatuation with chocolate

spread sandwiches until,

when he was four, Craig

announced he did not want

them any more and asked for

poisoning

'had role in

We used to try to make him

first time.

Flatman said.

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ago to campaign for the abolition of the rule that all cars should be preceded by a man carrying a red flag, is to take up the cause of other travellers, including cyclists and pedestrians. The former gentleman's driving club, which was grant-

ed royal patronage by Edward VII in 1907, announced yesterday that it wants to be known as a "mobility association" in future, rather than a motoring

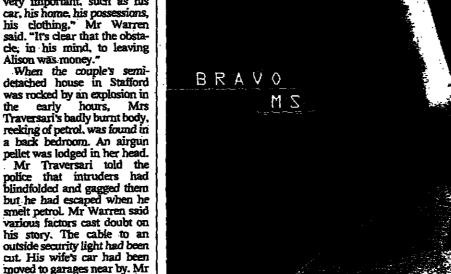
THE RAC, founded a century

Neil Johnson, the RAC's chief executive officer, said that membership could soon be extended to people who do not even own or drive cars but need the support of an organisation to promote their inter-

ests. "It is clear that the asked: "Are they going to continuation of such high support the rest of the cyclist levels of dependence on the car for mobility is unsustainable, and indeed not what most people want. Our members are only motorists part of the time. At other times they need -and wish - to move around by other means. They are clearly telling us that they support ideas such as pedestri-

anisation of key parts of our towns and cities. Cycling groups welcomed the RAC's conversion on the cycle path to Damascus" but expressed doubts whether it was driven by a genuine change of heart or short-term

commercial motives. Peter McGrath, spokesman for the Cyclists' Touring Club.



set and clothing to Leeds. where Ms Boycott lived. A notebook containing an inventory of the items in his house, found at his workplace, was intended as the basis of his insurance claim, Mr War-

Mr Traversari denies mur-

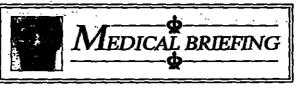


Seven-year-old used to sweat, scream and make himself sick on other food

Jammy dodger: Craig Flatman refused to eat anything other than white bread jam sandwiches for three years

Odd tastes need not make you sick

to eat a standard diet, it makes them feel good. But is a traditional choice of food essential to their offspring's wellbeing? Before a diet can be condemned as unhealthy it should be analysed to find out whether it contains a correct balance of fats, carbohydrates and protein - the principal ingredients of any sustaining menu - together with the necessary trace elements and vitamins. Jam sandwiches as a child's sole food is obviously less than ideal but is more comprehensive than it may snond. A iam sandwich if butter or margarine is liber-



ite amounts of fat, carbohydrate both in the sugar in the jam and as polysaccharides, together with the fatsoluble vitamins. Provided that the wheat was grown on the correct soil there will also he adequate trace elements.

Jam sandwiches will, too. if the bread is wholemeal, provide plenty of roughage. Un-

fortunately the jam sandwich diet will be short on essential amino acids because there is no animal protein, but there will be some vegetable pro-tein. It is likely that a child fed only on jam sandwiches is likely to suffer anaemia, and some protein deficiency. The diet would also be short on vitamin C.

The interesting question is

mined to have nothing else and reject the health-giving, parent-comforting, meat and two vegetables for so long?

One of my sons when about two or three lived for a great months on Spam, Dad's Cookies, a form of biscuit impregnated with pieces of chocolate, and some rather tasty multi-vitamin pills. His physical progress was unimpeded and after a time he went back to standard

> Dr Thomas STUTTAFORD

England bowler dismisses bar's drug allegation

By ALAN LEE AND SIMON WILDE

THE England cricketer Philip Tufnell yesterday described as "ridiculous" allegations that he smoked cannabis in a Christchurch bar on the eve of England's victory in the third

Test match in Chirstchurch His denial won the support of the team management, who backed his word against that of the bar's manageress and a waitress. But the story tainted the England team and deflected attention from the result of the match.

Tufnell has a long and turbulent record of indiscipline, and the allegation of drug-taking was potentially sensational. So too, was the timing, applying an unwanted strain and distraction to the England camp on the day their tour efforts had to stand

or fall. It was claimed that the spin bowler and two unnamed companions — neither of them connected to the England team — smoked cannabis on Monday evening in the dis-abled toilet of the fashionable Bardellis café bar in the centre

of Christchurch. They were the only ones to use the toilet and there was smoke billowing under the door into the restaurant." Caitlin Cherry, the waitress, said. "You could smell it, so we had to do something." She added that an English family.

"apologised profusely" for the behaviour of Tufnell's group,

who were asked to leave. They were laughing hysterically. They were having a really good time," Janelle Rossiter, the manageress, told TV3, a local television station.

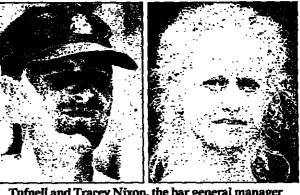
"He [Tufnell] wasn't drunk, but he certainly couldn't drive ... I was informed by my staff they were smoking joints in a disabled toilet. I told my staff to follow them the next time they went in."

Tufnell said of the allegation as he left the ground after the game: "I find it extraordinary. In fact, it makes me laugh. It's prevent him from joining the team's victory celebrations. "I am still going to go out for a few beers tonight. I'm looking forward to that."

John Barclay, the team manager, unequivocally exonerated him. "I am aware of the allegations and they are very serious," he said. "But I have spoken to Phil at length and very frankly and I am completely satisfied that they are rithout foundation."

Tim Lamb, chief executive of the English Cricket Board, said: I assume there is some mischief making going on," adding that as far as the board was concerned Tufnell would not face action over the claims.

Cricket, page 48



Tofnell and Tracey Nixon, the bar general manager

Sheep-dip Husband 'blew up wife to live with young mistress'

shooting' By MICHAEL HORNSBY

A HUSBAND doused his wife A FARMER who tried to murder a man living on his farm may have become mentally imbalanced after repeated exposure to a sheep-dip chemical, a court was told yesterday.

Billings, of Robert Warninglid, West Sussex, is accused of attempting to kill George Foster, who lived as a tenant in a caravan on the farm and whom he suspected of having an affair with his girlfriend.

Lewes Crown Court was told that on an evening in November 1993, Mr Billings had fired at Mr Foster with a shotgun, leaving him perma-nently disabled. The men and Mr Billings's girlfriend, Ursu-la Jenner, had been drinking

in local pubs that day.

James Townend, for the prosecution, told the jury they were dealing with "a case of drunken rage and it may well be misplaced jealousy". But they must also consider whether sheep-dip poisoning had affected Mr Billings's state of mind, possibly in conjunction with alcohol.

The key issue, Mr Townend said, was whether poisoning had affected the defendant's ability "to form the required intent" to shoot Mr Foster. ming either to kill him or inflict grievous bodily harm. The trial continues.

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

in petrol and blew up their house so that he could use £100,000 life assurance to set up home with his young mistress, a court was told resterday.

Rossano Traversari, 31, bound and gagged his wife Alison before their suburban home exploded "like a volcano". When her badly charred body was found by fire officers from the station where she worked as a controller, Mr Traversari said that the couple had been victims of intruders.

John Warren, QC, for the prosecution, told Stafford Crown Court that her death was the old story of the eternal triangle, and partly greed". Shortly after the couple's marriage in 1992, Mr Traversari had begun an affair with Catherine Boycott, a student. They had met when he was restaurant manager of the Garth Hotel in Stafford and she took a holiday job as a

The Traversaris split up when Mrs Traversari discovered the affair, but she forgave her husband and took him back. Mr Traversari continued his relationahip with Ms Boycott, who started to put pressure on him to leave his wife, Mr Warren said. The big obstacle was money. Mrs Traversari

RAC to wave the flag for all

those who travel hopefully

By Jonathan Prynn, transport correspondent

earned £15,000 a year but her husband, now a pallet supervisor for the glue maker Evode in Stafford, was paid only half that sum. This was a man to whom material things were very important, such as his car, his home, his possessions, his clothing," Mr Warren said. "It's clear that the obstacle in his mind, to leaving

When the couple's semidetached house in Stafford was rocked by an explosion in the early hours, Mrs Traversari's badly burnt body, reeking of petrol, was found in a back bedroom. An airgun pellet was lodged in her head.

blindfolded and gagged them but he had escaped when he smelt petrol. Mr Warren said various factors cast doubt on his story. The cable to an outside security light had been cut. His wife's car had been moved to garages near by. Mr Traversari had earlier taken a camcorder, portable television

agenda such as more traffic calming and less traffic in

The RAC will not be the first

to offer cycling breakdown

services to members. The En-

vironmental Transport Asso-

ciation, a tmy "green" motoring group with just 42,000

members, already offers cy-

million members, has increas-

ingly repositioned itself as an environmentally responsible

body during the past five

years. For its first 95 years, it was an unabashed member of

the roads lobby, calling for

ever more to be spent on

The RAC, which has six

towns and cities?"

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Asians put riches down to Thatcherite values

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

ASIAN millionaires together worth more than E4 billion gathered in London last night to celebrate the publication of a list of the 100 richest among them. Proudly declaring that their values of thrift, hard work and family life had outlasted their heroine. Baroness Thatcher, the businessmen and women toasted their success, mainly with soft drinks. at the Café Royal.

The 100 richest Asians employ 250,000 people around the world and own many high street brands, including Joe Bloggs Clothing, Horne Brothers, Ciro Citterio and Colorama, They are selfmade, almost to a man.

1 Lakshmi Mittai (steel) €1,500π

5 Tom Singh (fashion) £115m 6 Ratilal Chandaria (Industry) £100m

6 Anwar Parvez & family (food

wholesaling) £100m

9 Nat Puri (Industry) £95m

(computer sales) £50m

2 Sri & Gopi Hinduja (oil and trade) £1,100m

10 Lord Bargi & Apury Bagri (metal trade) £80m

10 Vijay Maliya (drinks & brewing) £80m

13 Shami Ahmed & family (fashion) £500

13 Tahir Mohsan & Dr Shamin Mohama

12 Gulu Laivani (electronics) £60m

3 Lord Paul (steel) £500m 4 Manubhai Madhvani & family (sugar, trade and

Forty-four of them richer than Mukhtar hidin. Britain's biggest Nat-

familing) £140m

ional Lottery winner, who collected £17.8 million. Anwar Parvez, joint sixth

richest at £100 million, walked eight miles a day as a fiveyear-old schoolboy in Pakistan but sent his own sons to Eton. 'We were Thatcherites before Margaret Thatcher," he said. 'We were told by our parents to live within our means. All our progress has been made

without borrowing money."

Mr Parvez, who made his fortune from the Bestway cash and carry business, is a farmer's son who arrived in Britain in the 1950s. His first job was as a bus conductor in Bradford. A Muslim, he now lives in a large house with a tennis court in Buckinghamshire. One of his sons is

reading law at Oxford and

BRITAIN'S RICHEST ASIANS

another has joined the family business. A third son works in Hong Kong and his daughter has gone to Pakistan.

Top of the list is Lakshmi Mittal, from Calcutta, who made El,500 million after spending 20 years in Indonesia creating the largest private steel company in the world, Ispat. He hosts lavish parties at his home in Hampstead. northwest London.

Mr Mittal is one of the leading "NRIs" - non-resident Indians - who are attracted by Britain's tax laws to make their home here. Other NRIs include Sri and Gopi Hinduja, brothers whose oil and trade business is worth .£1,100 million. They are second on the list. Third is Lord Paul, the

13 Naresh Patel & family (food retailing and

16 Jasminder Singh & family (hotels) £40m

18 Shirazali Dharamshi & family (property and

18 Rajesh Passi (Importer and distributor of

paper making) £30m Sudhaker Prabbu (consulting engineer) £30m

film processing) £50m

manufacturing) £35m

tashion goods) £30m

and property) £30m 18 Anii Rula (textiles) £30m

18 Nisaim Musry (textiles) £30m

18 Maq Rasul (video rentale) £30m

18 Mukesh Sehgai (fashionware) £30m

18 Rashmi Thakrar & family (rice importing

17 Perween & Dr Talib Warsi (food)

18 Dinesh Chandaria (paper manufact 18 Damodar Chantal (Industry) £30m

Metropolitan University. There are a handful of women on the list. Perween Warsi, despairing of finding a decent samosa in her Derby supermarket, is now worth £35 million after creating a food manufacturing business from her kitchen.

Labour peer, worth £500 mil-

lion. Another Labour recruit.

Mohammed Sarwar, a cash-

and-carry mogul worth

£10 million and ranked 62nd,

hopes to become MP for

Michael Heseltine, the Dep-

uty Prime Minister, addressed

last night's gathering with an

eye on the Asian vote. Lord

Bagri, the chairman of the

London Metal Exchange and

a new Tory peer, is tenth on the list with £80 million.

Singh. 20, who has made £27.5

million (28th place) running the fashion business Miss

Attitude while reading finan-

cial services at Manchester

The youngest is Reuben

Glasgow Govan.

Swati Patel, still humble enough to answer the telephone at her family's car-care product firm in Northampton. trained as a pharmacy technician but joined her father's business. "I had nothing else to do. I was bored." Share transfers have increased her value to £9 million.

Family control is a common theme among those on the list. Many began as waiters or grocers and have remained in food, retail and trading.

Leading article, page 19



Lakshmi Mittal

Sri Hinduja

Reuben Singh









Manubhai Madhvani

Shephard expels scruffy teachers from classroom

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT.

to prove they can dress smartly as well as pass grammar and arithmetic tests before they can qualify, the Government announced yesterday.

Polished presentation skills are among the standards laid down in the proposed national curriculum for teacher training colleges. Traditional methods are emphasised, including whole class teaching instead of lessons where groups or individuals work at their own

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, said that she did not want "scruffy" teachers in classrooms any more than those who could not teach. "Young people are impressed by image. If they perceive that a teacher regards his or her work as important enough to warrant smart dress and good presentation, then they will accept teaching and think that it is an important job and that they are doing something important in

learning." The new curriculum would ensure that teachers knew how to use phonics, the method of learning to read by teaching the sounds of letters and parts of words. It would also instruct trainees how best to teach mental arithmetic, including a return to chanting

multiplication tables. Trainee teachers will be required to have a minimum grade C in GCSE science, in addition to the existing mini-

mum of C grades in English

STUDENT teachers will have and mathematics. Those with a C in mathematics will be expected to improve while on the course, to gain Qualified. Teacher Status.

Primary school trainees should have at least one; specialist subject at A-level standard and be able to communicate clearly and grammatically. The prowill begin in September, followed by a new curriculum for secondary teacher training.

The standards for Qualified Teacher Status are expected to form the basis of a revamped appraisal system, announced earlier this month, which could be used to sack failing

teachers. Anthea Millett, chief executive of the Teacher Training Agency, said a significant number of training colleges would have to raise their performance. "These proposals will cause most institutions to make some adjustment in their courses, some a substantial adjustment," she said.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, said Labour would introduce a probationary year for newlyqualified teachers. He said the Government had wasted 18; years before acting over teach-

er standards. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and a Union of Women Teachers. welcomed the proposals as "knocking on open doors for



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Horseshoe pupils race ahead

AN EXPERIMENT in which schoolchildren sit in a horseshoe pattern has begun to transform standards for inner-city pupils, a conference heard yesterday (David Char-

The double horseshoe arrangement of desks, used in Switzerland and Taiwan, is being heralded as the saviour of "whole-class" teaching. Its success is based on mixing the two systems at the centre of controversy over classroom isation since victorianstyle rows began to be re-1960s. The whole-class method pupils to take turns in explain-

is preserved because all the children feel involved in the lesson, as they can see each other and the teacher.

In turn, the teacher can see who is not coping. But the pattern also means children can break into groups more easily than when in rows.

Nine-year-olds in Barking and Dagenham, east London, showed marked improvements in grades after a trial year using the horseshoe class. for mathematics lessons. They also became more relaxed about speaking in public, placed by small groups in the because the system requires

ing their work to the whole

Researchers from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research told a seminar at the Department of Trade and Industry that the system could help to revive whole-class teaching for a new generation. It would answer critics who characterise the whole-class method as preaching from the front

Professor Sig Prais, senior research fellow at the institute, said the horsestine below to explain why Swiss children consistently autperformed



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Anonymous phonecalls, a prowler and 'general sense of unease' led family of Billie-Jo to seek new home

Parents of murder victim had wanted to move from area

THE legal guardians of the murdered schoolgirl Billie-Jo Jenkins were so concerned about a prowler near their house in the weeks before the killing that they had decided to move, it emerged yesterday. Sion Jenkins, 39, and his

wife Lois, 35, struggled to retain their composure as they described the "loving, articu-late and helpful" girl who brought joy to their family and adored her four sisters. The couple, who became

Billie-Jo's legal guardians three months ago after fostering her for five years, said police were aware of their worries about security around their home in Hastings.

Billie-Jo. 13, suffered severe head injuries when she was attacked with a metal tent spike as she painted patio doors in the garden of her

home on Saturday. The first person to see her body was her ten-year-old sister Lottie, who is deeply traumatised. The couple's other children Maya, 7, Esther, 9, and Annie, 2, are also in shock. There was a sense of un-

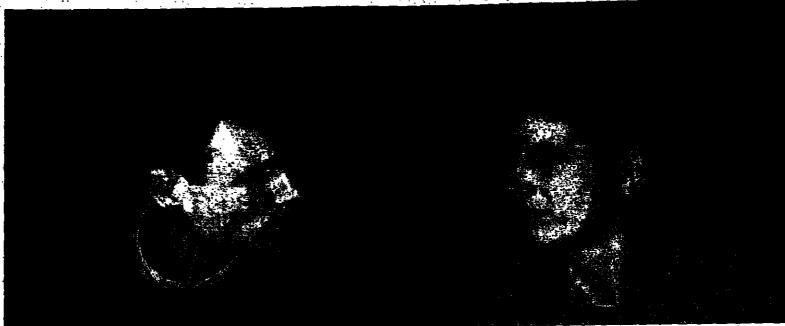
ease from January culminat-ing to the extent that we wanted to sell the house and had looked at another house in the Old Town of Hastings with a view to moving there," Mr Jenkins said. There was just a general feeling of un-comfortableness that some members of my family felt about individuals who always seemed to be around."

Mr Jenkins, deputy head at William Parker comprehensive school for boys in Hastings, had disturbed a prowler in his garden 12 days before the killing. His description of a man in his forties wearing a leather jacket hanging around the house matches a description given by Billie-Jo of a man she feared was stalking her. Detectives from Sussex Police appealed yesterday for further information about this man.

In an emotional tribute to

the girl, Mr Jenkins said: "As a family we are totally devastated and we don't understand why my daughter has been murdered. Billie-Jo was loving and supportive to her four sisters. She was buoyant, ar-ticulate, quick to learn and fun-loving. She had numerous ambitions and brought joy into the lives of everyone. She was a perceptive young woman who enjoyed life to the

The couple were particularly concerned about a derelict house next door to their semi-



Sion and Lois Jenkins, legal guardians of Billie-Jo, recalled a "loving, articulate and helpful" girl at a police press conference yesterday

which has been boarded up for a year, is due to be converted into a home for mentally handicapped people. Mrs Jenkins said a neigh-

bour reported worries about the house to police before Christmas. There were people frequently going in and out of the house," Mrs Jenkins said, Police were also called to the Jenkins's home in Decem-

ber when a neighbour reported seeing a man peering into a front window.

The family did not tell police about the man in the leather jacket or a series of "heavy they received in January.
"It's very difficult for us to

dissociate the events over the last three weeks from the murder," Mr Jenkins said. "But we cannot be sure - we don't know whether it is specifically linked to Billie or whether if Annie or Lottie had been in the house at that place at that time whether it might

have been them." The family, who moved to Hastings from east London in 1993 when Mr Jenkins won his unity conscious. "As parents we are generally concerned for

never permitted them to go out by themselves."

Billie Io was encouraged to maintain contact with her natural parents in east London While she always called Mrs Jenkins "Mum". she sometimes called Mr Jenkins "Sion" when she was with her natural family, he said. They were "grieving London", Mr Jenkins said.

uing despite the arrest of a 44year-old local man on Monday. He has since been released on police bail into The man had been seen

the inquiry, emphasised that

the investigation was contin-

merican nded as

knocking on doors asking for accommodation in the East Sussex town on the day of the

Foster child had loved her new life by the sea

ACCORDING to friends, Billie Jo Jenkins spent the happiest years of her life in even as a young man." guardians and their four daughters, whom she came to regard as her sisters.

After a troubled childhood in east London, she was fostered by Lois Jenkins, a social services department project manager with Tower Hamlets Council in east London and her husband Sion. The couple, with their four natural daughters, gave Billie Jo the stability and sec-

The placement was so successful that on December 19 last year her natural parents agreed that she should be granted a permanent resi-dence order with the Jenkins, taking ber out of foster care, although maintaining contact with her real mother and

Billie-Jo's life in Hastings, there the family moved in 1993, was in sharp contrast to her upbringing in east London. Her natural father, William "Billy" Jenkins, 45, is an unemployed painter and decorator who has served several spells in prison for handling stolen goods. His marriage to her natural mother, Deborah Kim Wood, was

According to a former girlfriend, who declined to be named, Mr Jenkins has at least two other children from different relationships. There was a son born before Billie-Jo and a daughter who is aged about 9.

Mr Jenkins, 45, is believed last to have seen his daughter at Christmas at a family gathering in Forest Gate, east London. The meeting was organised by Billy's sister Maggie, who had a close nship with Billie-Io. Billie-Jo's grandfather, who is also called Billy, attended the

family gathering.
Billy Jo's father comes originally from Leytonstone, east London, but in recent weeks moved into a one-bedroom flat near Plaistow. He is unemployed. Neighbours described Mr Jenkins as a sullen character, prone to mood swings. The former

ways been a bit nervy. He struck us as being that way

Billy-lo's new family bought a five-bedroom Victorian house in Hastings. A family friend said yesterday: "When Billie-Jo came to Hastings at the age of ten she was a fun-loving little girl who was very excited by the idea of streetwise for her age and missed some of her friends from her primary school in the East End, but soon settled

The lenkins were ideal foster parents, she said,

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wack str

Earmy off

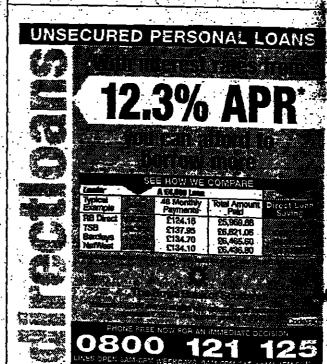


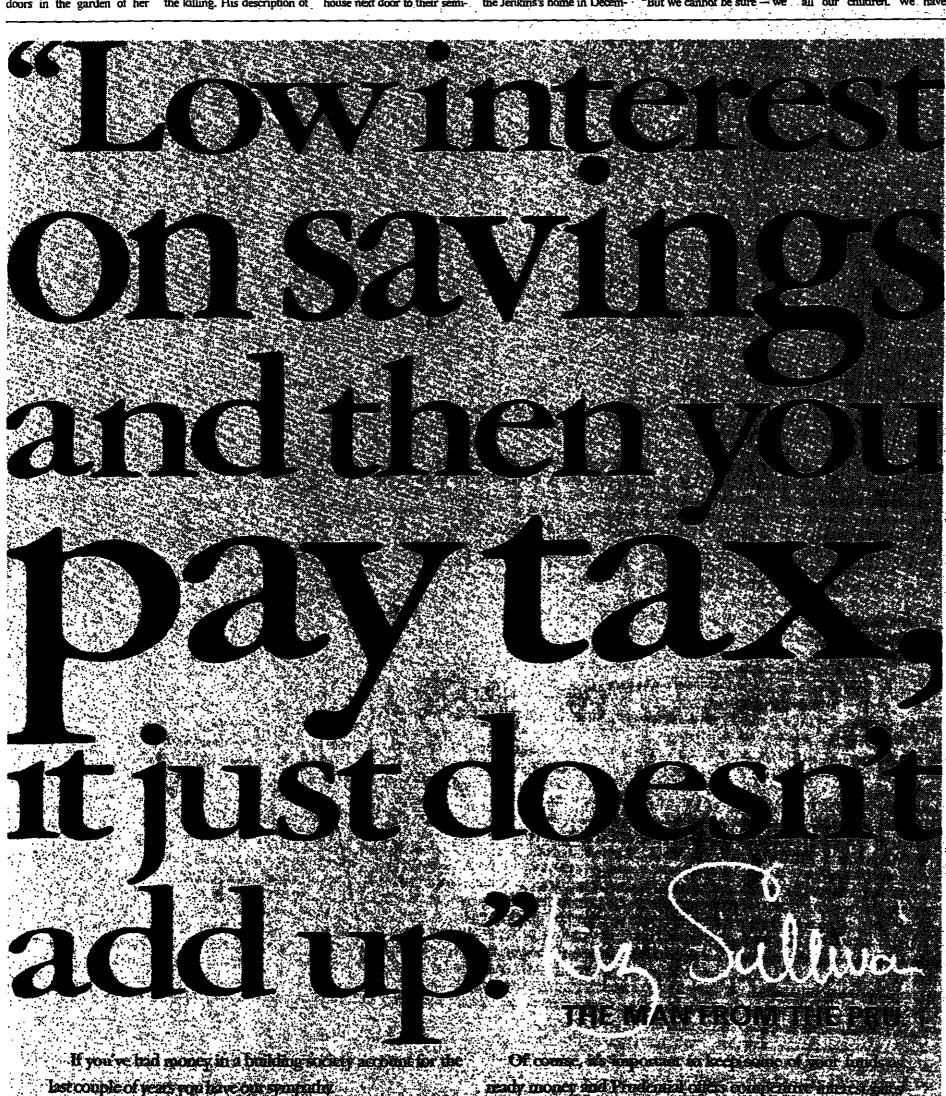
Billie-Jor last saw real father at Christmas

'Until all the troubles with stalkers and funny phone calls just before Christmas it was a very happy home."

At Helenswood compre-

hensive school for girls in Hastings, Billie-Jo's favourite subject at school was drama and she wanted to become an actress. Jenny Blackburn, her headmistress, said: "She fitted in very well with her foster family. She didn't have a strong cockney accent and you would have never guessed she was fostered." She took part in a recent production of My Fair Lady, and had just suditioned for and won a part in Crucible. The school yesterday that the production would be dedicated to her.





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Americans' dream ended as they let cats out of the bag

A COUPLE'S dream of moving to Britain from America was shattered because France gives no warning to travellers about this country's strict ra-

Yesterday a magistrate criticised French officials, as well as British customs officers at Waterloo station, who seized two cats belonging to Gianni and Astrid De Biagi, from Miami.

The couple maintained they were unaware of the law governing the importation of animals when they brought Frenchie and Flannel into the country in a holdall on the Eurostar from Paris, where they had been staying with relatives. The animals, which had rabies immunisation certificates from Miami, had passed through X-ray machines in Paris and been waved through customs.

On arrival at Waterloo, Mrs De Biagi, 34, told customs officers she had nothing to declare but asked them to be careful when searching her bags as her cats were inside. The cats were immediately taken away, Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court was told.

Judy Ranjeet, for the De Biagis, said they were travelling to London for Mrs De Biagi to attend a three-week course with Air France, after which she was due to start a

She lost the job after missing a

session to appear in court.

custody which was completely

traumatic for somebody who

has never been in that situa-

Mrs Keating conditionally

discharged Mrs De Biagi for

they left court, Mr De Biagi

said the arrest had cost them

tries is ridiculous."

tion before."

After hearing the story. Rosamond Keating, the magistrate, said: "I think some-thing ought to be done about signs in Paris. How an earth is someone travelling from Miami to Paris supposed to know as a matter of general knowledge that England has strict quarantine rules and continues to be an island, despite the Channel Tunnel?"

Mrs Keating also expressed ber disapproval of customs at Waterloo after being told that animal health inspectors had said that anti-rables vaccination certificates obtained by Mrs De Biagi in Miami were invalid. They had rabies vac-cination certificates. It's quite clear they aren't any danger to England. Are we saying Miami is such a corrupt place that their certificates aren't acceptable in this polite little society of Britain? Ms Ranjeet said Mrs De

Biagi, who was charged with through the Channel Tunnel, had paid £140 to have them flown from Miami to her parents' home in Paris and would have left them with her mother had she known it was illegal to bring them to England. "She was completely unaware of this country's restrictions." She added: "Mrs



Frenchie and Flannel with an assistant at the quarantine unit at Heathrow

Admiral 'claimed a £6,000 pay rise'

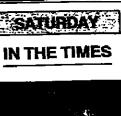
A RETIRED admiral asked for a £6,000 pay rise within three months of becoming a £23,600-a-year harbourmaster, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

When Hampshire County Council refused Rear-Admiral Tim England's request, he took the law into his own hands" and refused to supply the council with financial information. Tim Howard, for the council, said Admiral England, 54, was effectively hold-

ing the council to ransom.

The council tried to stop the admiral's "unacceptable behaviour" by holding a disciplinary meeting last May Admiral England had said that if the disciplinary matters against him were revoked, the financial information would be available, Mr Howard

On a later occasion the admiral had told a superior that if he were not addressing him by his Christian name — and he would prefer that he did not - then he should address him with the title of rear-admiral. Admiral England is claiming unfair dismissal. The case





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Gianni and Astrid De Biagi outside court yesterday

Soccer to salute first black striker and army officer

By RICHARD DUCE

A MEMORIAL garden is planned to mark the career of a black professional footballer and army officer who was killed while leading white soldiers into action during the Second Battle of the Somme

nearly 80 years ago. Walter Tull, who is thought to have been Britain's first black officer, was cut down by German fire on March 25,

A simple inscription on a war memorial at Arras in France is to date the only testimony to a second lieutenant who became the world's first black professional striker. Northampton Town, for whom Mr Tull played before he enlisted in 1914, hopes to raise £3,000 to build a memorial garden to its former wing-

Mr Tull's great-great-neph-ew, Graham Humphrey, 38, of Maidstone, Kent, said: "History seems to have forgot-ten the significance of his

achievements. He was a remarkable character, an officer and a gentleman.

Walter Daniel Tull was born in Folkestone in 1888 to a Barbadian father and a local woman, who both died before he was ten. He and his brother Edward were placed in an east London orphanage.

Edward, adopted by a Scottish family, became Britain's first black dentist. Walter, after a spell with Clapton Football Club in east London. signed for Tottenham Hotspur as a centre-forward. He was the earliest victim of racial abuse in football, during a match at Bristol City.

He moved to the Midlands Northampton Town, where he played wing-half in more than 100 first-team games, scoring nine goals, before the outbreak of war. He enlisted with the 7th Middlesex (Footballers' Bat-

Last month, third division Northampton Town held a memorial match for Mr Tull against Chester to mark the adoption of an equal opportunities policy. Brian Lomax, a director of the club, said: Walter Tull was a local hero when he played here." Bernie Grant, the Tottenham Labour MP, is lobbying for the north London Premiership side to

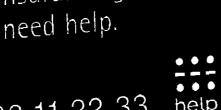
hold a similar match. The Defence Ministry said: Walter Tull is listed as a second lieutenant but there is no mention of colour in our record. As a result it is impossible to say whether he was the first black officer, but we are proud he was one of many prepared to give up their life for this country."



Tull: died while leading soldiers into action

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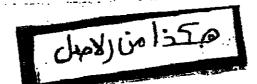
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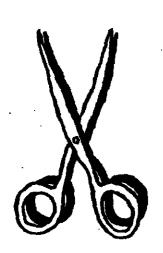
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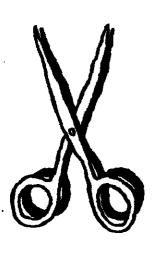
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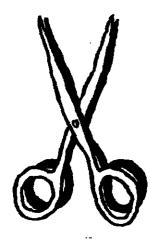
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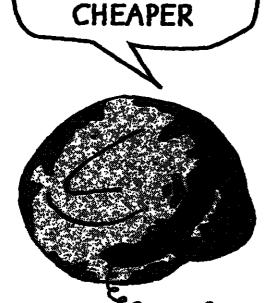
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Social worker acted after patient said she did not care if baby died, court told

Woman claims Caesarean was unlawful

A PREGNANT woman held in hospital against her will and forced to undergo a Caesarean section was said yesterday to have had no interest in her own survival or her child's.

The unmarried mother from southwest London, who cannot be named, was suffering "suicidal fanta-sies" when confined last April. She had also talked of punishing her former partner and hoped that he would feel guilty if she died, the High Court was told.

The allegations came as "Miss S" asked for permission to apply for judicial review against the hospitals that detained her under the 1983 Mental Health Act and then obtained court order to deliver her baby by

Caesarean section, after fears about her physical health.

Lawyers for the 29-year-old woman argue that it was unlawful to detain and treat her, and that the medical authorities contravened the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act. Miss S says that as a result of being denied her legal right to oppose the action of the medical authorities she suffered physical and mental anguish and

The case was adjourned yesterday by Mr Justice Stuart-White, who said that another judge more experienced in judicial review applications should

Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, told the court that an uninformed media campaign was threatening to damage the reputation of the social said that his client, Louize Collins, employed by the London Borough of Merton, had been called by a GP who had expressed fears about the mental state of Miss S - then about

36 weeks pregnant. Lord Lester read a statement from Ms Collins in which she said Miss S had been adamant that she would not accept any treatment for pre-eclampsia, a dangerous condition involving high-blood pressure. When told that both she and her unborn baby would probably die, Miss S had said: "So

The social worker said that Miss S referred several times "to how she would be glad to punish her exrelationship was over, but was unable to explain how she was going to be delivered of the baby without intervention". Ms Collins's statement added: "It was as if she wanted to

wish it away or have it die."
Miss S, whose ten-month-old daughter was at nursery yesterday, indicated more than once that "a dead baby would be a solution as she in no way wanted it", the court was told. Ms Collins and two doctors agreed that intervention was required under the 1983 Mental Health Act and it would have been negligent not to respond to "Miss S's clear need

Outside court Miss S said: "I was prepared to take the risk that both of

worker who had formally applied for guilty if she died." She "talked about us would die for principles I feel very Miss S to be detained in hospital. He not wanting the baby now the strongly about." She was not disappointed with the judge's decision to adjourn the case and said: "I don't mind if I have to wait a couple of months or even a couple of years. It is

that important to me."
Miss S said she disliked medical procedures and wanted a home birth. Pregnancy is a natural process. I don't believe in ending it in the environment of a hospital with all the pressures and lack of privacy," she said. "People had been having babies for many years before hospitals were on the scene.

"It is a matter of public concern that hospitals can use underhand means to force patients to have treatment they have quite clearly stated they don't wish to have."

Police chief's wife says she stands by her man

By ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY AND MARK HENDERSON

THE wife of the former police officer appointed to clean up Australia's most corrupt force made an ex-

traordinarily public statement yesterday to deny rumours that their marriage had broken down. Adrienne Ryan, whose embattled husband, Peter, was appointed the New South Wales police commissioner last year, sent an open letter to a Sydney newspaper to tell him: "Sweet-

newspaper to tell him: "Sweet-heart, I love you. Don't let the bastards grind you down." Mrs Ryan's statement, which was splashed across the front page of the Sydney Daily Telegraph, followed allegations that she had re-turned to Britain because their marriage was in touchle their marriage was in trouble. She insisted: "I adore my husband, for he is all that anyone could ask of a husband and a father, devoted, loving and caring without reservation and we have a strong and enduring

marriage."
"If it were not so then I would not be able to be in England now in order to complete my education."

Mrs Ryan is renting a



Ryan: accused officers of spreading gossip

Loddon, Hampshire, while she completes a degree in politics and international re-lations at Reading University. "I wanted to respond and make my position absolutely clear - that I love Peter and there's no way I would leave him," she said. "People obviously thought they could hurt him like this but he's made of stronger stuff than that."

officers opposed to his re-Tasmania, he said the smears

impossible task. Her husband, 52, accused

forms of spreading the rumours. Attending a police commissioners' conference in would not stop him continuing to root out corruption.
"This is a deliberate attempt

the reform process," he said. "We're obviously getting close

Mrs Ryan said she would rejoin her husband for good when she finished her degree in June. Mr Ryan said the smear campaign would not dissuade him and his family from remaining in Australia. The idea of coming here was to build a life for ourselves and become Australian citizens, and that is what we

intend to do," he said. A Royal Commission loves tigating the New South Wales force has uncovered so many problems that many observers believe Mr Ryan has an

On his arrival from England, where he had been Chief Constable of Norfolk Constabulary, he told fellow officers to get out if they resented his changes. Two of the state's highest-ranking officers were sacked soon after and several more were dismissed or demoted. Mr Ryan, a Lancastrian, has also fallen foul of an "anti-Pom"

Earlier last year he applied to become Chief Constable of Lancashire, where he spent the first 20 years of his career. but he was overlooked in favour of Pauline Clare, the



Adrienne Ryan, who wrote to a Sydney paper denying claims of a marital split

Britain invents new time machine | Scientists protest at

TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

AN ATOMIC clock a thousand times more accurate than the best now available is being developed by British scientists. The clock, which could become the standard for timekeeping in the 21st century, is based on the properties of a rare earth metal called ytterbium when pulsed with laser light.

Dr Mat Roberts, of the Government's National Physical Laboratory in Teddington, west London, said the clock would improve satellite navigation systems and scientific measurements and make radio telescopes more accurate.

Existing atomic clocks, which are the standard for international timekeeping, are based on the element caesium. Scientists found that if a caesium atom were bathed in microwaves, its electrons would leap to higher energy levels, emitting light as they degraded. By precisely tuning the frequency of the microwaves, a maximum number of electrons are flipped up to higher energy levels. This frequency, accurate to within half of a thousand millionth of a second

per day, defines the modern second. The researchers at Teddington, whose findings are published today in the Institute of Physics's magazine Opto and Laser Europe, have taken the technique a

big step forward by using ytterbium. The team first needed to freeze an atom of the element, which was done by holding one in a force field called an ion trap. An ultraviolet laser was shone on the charged atom, which cooled it to just above absolute zero. Another laser was shone at the atom which, if precisely runed, would cause an electron to flip up to a higher energy state.

The frequency of the laser, oscillating 600 million million times a second, needs to be tuned with absolute precision to achieve this phenomenon. Otherwise the electron will stay put. The team believes the precision required will define a new standard of time.

patents on nature

PLANS by the European Commission to allow patents on a wide range of living ob-jects have been attacked by British scientists as threatening the basis of scientific re-

search (Nigel Hawkes writes). Professor Jacqueline Mc-Glade, of Warwick University, told the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Seattle that the new directive from Brussels would make it possible to "patent nature wholesale". "We have

perfectly good patent regula-tions in Europe. I want this new directive blocked."

A group of leading British scientists has written a strong letter to Nature. It is understood to say that instead of helping biotechnology to make a responsible contribution to medicine and agriculture, "the directive threatens the foundations of scientific research - free access to material and freedom to pursue promising lines of inquiry".

Why one woman's drink may be her child's poison

plumbism, has always been of more interest to the doctor than the detective. The changes that lead poisoning induces in an adult are so slow that no wicked heir who wanted to lay his hands on the family riches would be likely to make it his preferred poi-

The symptoms develop in-sidiously, although in time the patient will develop irreversble kidney damage. The first signs are headaches, vague abdominal pains associated with anorexia and nausea. and, most obviously, person-

ality changes. In children the onset of lead poisoning may be much more dramatic, with evidence of acute encephalopathy (headaches, convulsions and delinium). Whether it comes on slowly or rapidly, it can cause lasting intellectual impair-

Low-grade lead poisoning is a danger to children if they are able to lick or chew woodwork decorated with old paints; if their water supply comes



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

through lead rather than cop-per pipes; and if, before un-leaded petrol became readily available, they lived too close to a main road. Playing on soil contaminated by lead is another source of poisoning.

The Archives of Disease in Childhood has recently published an analysis of congenitai neurological abnormal-ities in children born in Lancashire. The researchers lead levels in the water and the likelihood that mothers would have babies with neural tube defects, whether spina bifida, hydrocephalus or an absence parts of the brain.

Where there is excess lead, the mother may suffer from having too little zinc. which is

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needed by the body if it is to absorb folic acid. A woman who is deprived of folic acid when pregnant is likely to have a child who is not only more prone to abnormalities of the brain and spinal cord but, recent research suggests, hare lip and cleft palate as

The research found a link between wealth and levels of lead in water. The more deprived a mother's background, the more likely it is that the level of lead in the water supply will be high, and the higher the incidence of babies who suffer neurological abnormalities.

The obvious immediate action is to persuade all women. rich and poor, to take addi-tional folic acid before they think of becoming pregnant. The research also teaches doctors that it is unwise to make assumptions without first inquiring into the reasons why these have become accepted

truths. It has long been assumed that babies born to women who come from disadvantaged backgrounds are smaller and have a higher incidence of congenital malformation. This has always been attributed to nature, but the research involving the Lancashire women shows that it was a consequence of nurture and that the their water supply

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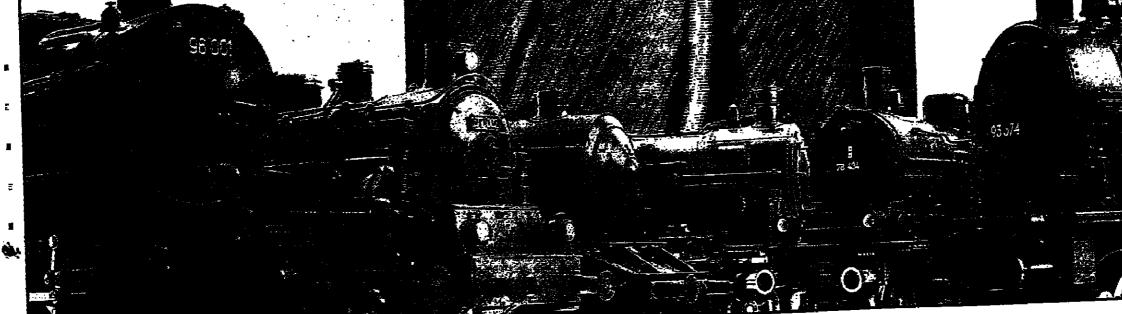
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Labour not crying over Lloyd Webber threat to emigrate

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SEVERAL Labour MPs last night rapturously applauded suggestions that Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber will leave Britain if Tony Blair wins the general election. They claim the threat increases Labour's

hopes of victory.

The multimillionaire composer, reported to be considering emigrating rather than live in a Labour-run Britain, was given a rousing, if premature, send-off in the Commons, in which his work was described as "pretty forgetta-ble, chocolate-box stuff". A small band of Labour MPs tabled a motion claiming that Sir Andrew's reported intention provided an extra incentive to vote Lahour and that they look forward to Sir

Andrew keeping his promise". Tony Banks, the leader of the left-wing group, said that Sir Andrew's threat was "arrogant in the extreme" and he would like to see the back of him "because that's the best view". Michael Heseltine, the

Deputy Prime Minister, seized on Sir Andrew's threat to suggest that there might be a repetition of the "brain drain" which led wealthy Britons to emigrate during the last Labour Government.

Sir Andrew, who is estimated to be worth E550 million and who was given a peerage in the New Year's Honours List, was reported last week as "What on earth hapsaying: pens if Labour gets in with a huge majority and a whole lot of loonies get in at the same

Mr Heseltine said that Sir Andrew was right to be fearful of a Labour government. It's a classic example of someone who's done extraordinarily well. He's a man who has brought huge revenues and prestige to this country, and who is seriously thinking of leaving if Labour were to be elected. Of course there would

be many more like him." Mr Banks admitted he was not the biggest fan of Sir

Andrew's work. Given his output, there are obviously going to be one or two pieces that he has composed that are fairly easy on the ear. But it's pretty forgettable, chocolatebox stuff. It's very commercial and has proved to be by the vast amount of money he has made. Nobody is going to cry

"If these people who have done very well in this country think we are going to be concerned if they leave, that is

Mr Banks's remarks sit uneasily with his role, declared in a Commons register, as an adviser to the Musicians' Union and the Broadcasting, Entertainment, Cinematograph and Theatre Union, many of whose members have thrived on the success of Sir Andrew's

A spokesman for Sir Andrew yesterday denied that he had any plans to leave the



Julie-Alanah Brighten and Alasdair Harvey, who will star in Beauty and the Beast

Disney aims to usurp kings of the West End

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

THE Disney Corporation is to produce the costliest musical to be staged in the West End. it announced yesterday. In a challenge to the kings of the British musical, Sir Caroeron Mackintosh and Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, the company announced a £10 million production of Beauty and the Beast, and said it would be the first of many in Britain and the Continent.

The budget is about three times greater than Sir. Cameron's Oliver! and Sunset Boulevard from Sir Andrew, who was ennobled in the New Year's Honours List. "I expect they'll be worried," Skip Malone, the vice-president of Disney Theatricals, said.

Disney's British stage de-but, inspired by the success of its animated film, will be followed in October by a stage version of The Lion King. Both productions feature lyrics by Sir Tim Rice.

The American company is planning to establish permanent offices in London. If the

West End staging repeats its success on Broadway in 1994, when it recouped a similar investment in just over a year. Disney will look at touring the show throughout Britain and the Continent.

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contirm

The West End debut was delayed while the company sought a big enough venue. Work is now under way at the Dominion Theatre, enlarging the backstage area to take the production. At least £5 million will be spent on the set and

Mr Malone said that after talking to British producers. Disney Theatricals chose instead to go into partnership with a German company, Stella Musical Productions. That company has staged musicals on the Continent, particularly its home country. which Mr Malone described as second in importance to only the West End market.

Mr Malone said that Disney would devote its energies to "family shows, not chil-dren's shows". He believed that the company's founder, Walt Disney, would have approved of the two-way relationship between the screen and stage: "He was all about quality and sometimes went against the trends." Initially. the company will concentrate on musicals, but straight

plays may follow. Nick Allott, executive pro-ducer of Cameron Mackintosh Ltd. said he was pleased at Disney's announcement. "We welcome any new competition. The more competition there is, the healthier it is. In our experience, one hit begets another."

While some in the theatre

world lament the musical's domination of Broadway and the West End, audiences continue to show a huge appetite for the genre. With producers struggling to make ends meet with conventional drama, Sir Cameron and Sir Andrew's productions contin-ue to make millions. Sir Cameron has Les Misérables, Miss Saigon, Oliver! and Martin Guerre among more than 300 productions staged around the world over some .25 years. Sir Andrew's London production with Sir Cameron of Cats last year became the longest-running West End musical Sir Andrew has broken records by having three musicals running in New York and three in London

Beauty and the Beast opens in London on May 13. after previews from April 29. It will feature Alasdair Harvey as the Beast and Julie-Alanah Brighten as Belle.

Arts, pages 37-39



Sir Tim: lyrics wasted

Musicals depress me, says Sir Tim

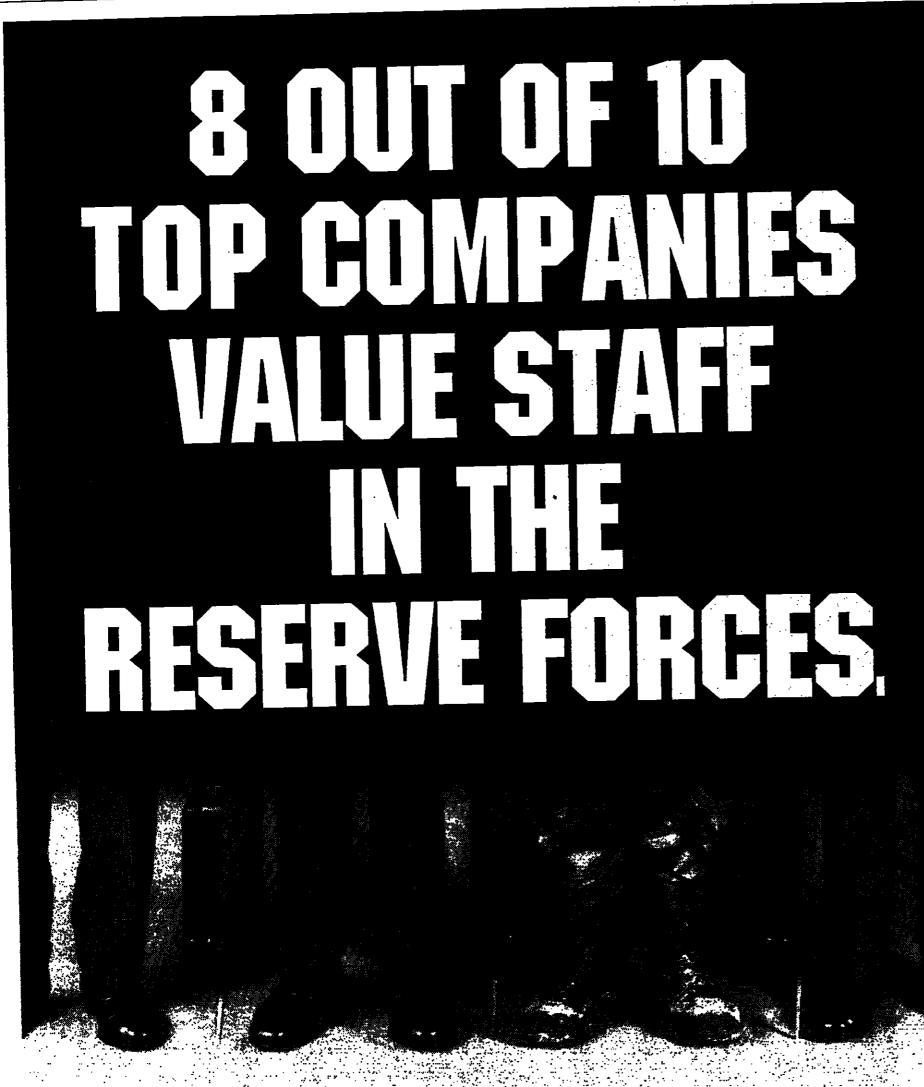
SIR TIM RICE said yesterday he was "fed up" with musicals and much preferred to see a

straight play. The lyricist for Evita, who is involved in the Disney stage version of Beauty and the Beast, expressed despair that too many musicals were playa clue about what's going on".
Lyrics were lost on coachloads
of "people who speak only
Japanese", he said, adding: "I am not wild about musicals as a genre. I would rather see a straight play nine times out of ten. I am fed up with the preaching-type musical. Some of them you come out wanting to shoot yourself, or the guy who wrote it. Not naming names, but some of them are really downbeat."



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THE VOLUNTEER RESERVE FORCES. BRITAIN'S BEST KNOWN

Tories urge Major to confirm May 1 as election date

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TORY MPs and ministers and 15 is the natural spring son (Glasgow Govan), was urged John Major yesterday to end speculation over the election date by making clear that it will be May I.

They accept that he cannot formally make the announcement for several weeks. If he did he would appear to take the Ulster Unionists for grant-ed as well as trigger election broadcasting rules that would automatically give the opposi-

tion parties equal air time. But, buoyed up by their success on Monday in defeating Labour's attempt to force an early election, the Tories want the Prime Minister to indicate that he is intent on going to the country in May. They believe that they will benefit from a long campaign starting two or three weeks before the dissolution of

Mr Major's speech to a local government rally on Saturday is seen as an early opportunity for him to tell the party faithful that he is intent on

May I.
The Conservative Central Council meeting on March 14 to make the vote, Ian David-

then it will be too late to call a contest for April 10, the only other likely date.

Senior ministers are arguing that a May election would give the longest possible time for the memory of the expected defeat next week in the Wirral by-election to fade.

Labour leaders have again

threatened to call a confidence vote after the Wirral result, but they will not carry out their threat unless the Ulster. Unionists assure them that they will help to bring down the Government. Senior Tories calculate that the Unionists are unlikely to do so immediately after the by-election, if at all. The Conservatives were

Monday to censure Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, so comfortably that they would have won even if the Unionists had voted against

voicing satisfaction that they

had seen off the attempt on

One Labour MP who failed

board for a May election; by given a stern rebuke by Donald Dewar, the Chief Whip, yesterday. He had apparently attended a meeting of the Scottish Grand Committee in Montrose and tried unsuccessfully to travel to London in time for the vote.

But Tony Blair insisted that Labour's tactics had been vindicated. What we have doneis expose to the public the fact that beef will have cost them the equivalent of 2p on the standard rate of income tax."

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, portrayed the vote and Mr Blair's reaction to it as a symbol of his unfitness to govern. Tory MPs revelled in the Labour leader's decision not to return to the Commons chamber to hear the outcome of the vote.

Dr Mawhinney, who was unveiling the latest Tory preelection poster, featuring a claim that a Blair government would cost families an extra £2,300 a year in tax, said: "If you had seen Mr Blair's face



Please sir. Michael Howard yesterday during a campaign visit to Higher Bebington School in Wirral South

humiliated, not even having the courage to stay for the announcement of the vote, you wouldn't have said, There's a

man who's leading'." Michael Heseltine, the Dep-John Prescott out to dry and disappeared from sight. He as he walked out of the uty Prime Minister, said at the

chamber last night, looking same launch that Labour had "made fools of themselves". He said of Mr Blair: The moment there's a whiff of danger he disappears. I was amazed that Tony Blair left

was supposed to be leading the troops."

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, who was campaigning in Wirral South yesterday, dropped another May 1 hint. "There is a great deal of life left in this Government and we

have a great deal still to do." he said.

Referring to the vote, he said: "It shows how utterly incompetent Labour are. They didn't consult the other parties and they are left with a great deal of egg on their faces."

Prescott angered by spin doctors

By JILL SHERMAN

JOHN PRESCOTT joined a Shadow Cabinet row over the privatisation of the Tote yesterday with an attack on Labour's spin-doctors.

The deputy leader said that when party aides had floated an idea it did not mean it was Labour policy. "I wish somebody could stop them," he told BBC Radio 4's Today

programme. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, and Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary were also angry that a story in the Sunday Telegraph that Labour was planning to sell off the Tote was confirmed by a senior adviser to Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor.

The aide briefed reporters on Sunday and gave further details about how much the sale would bring in, saying that £400 million to £500 million could be raised to spend on health and education services.

Aides from Tony Blair's office did not deny the story. but made clear that it was only an option, not policy. It took another 24 hours, after an angry reaction from the racing community, before Robin Cook, a racing enthusiast, killed the story, saying: "There will be no proposal by Labour to sell the Tote."

The debacle will heighten the tension between Mr Cook and Mr Brown. Relations between them have never been good and the Shadow Foreign Secretary was clearly irritated that he had not been consulted about something on which he was such an expert.

Although the Mr Brown's aide was being blamed yesterday, it was clear that the Shadow Chancellor knew about the story on Sunday and did nothing to stop it.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: from 9.30am, backbench debates. From 2.30pm, trade and industry questions; social security benefits, persions and contributions or dens; backbench debate on nutritional supplements on the NHB prescription late. In the Lords: debates on privatised utilities.

Unwieldy government needs cutting down to size

The Government has too the Commons should look to the many ministers and the House of Commons too many MPs. This view is gaining support and not just from senior MPs after they have announced their intention to retire. So I was cheered when I read in the Express on Sunday that John Major was considering a radical shake-up so that "more than 150 MPs and 30 ministers could be axed".

Unfortunately, the Tories are not likely to propose anything as radical in their manifesto. Admittedly, some ministers are sympathetic to these ideas. Roger Freeman has been the only Cabinet minister publicly to back a slimmer House, though Lord Cranborne has dropped a few bints that perhaps

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flaws in its own House before proposing reconstruction of the Lords. Leading political academics such as Professor Philip Norton of Hull have also discussed reducing the size of the Commons. But the Tory leadership seems unwilling to challenge its own MPs so dramatically at this stage.
What ministers have discussed,

at their strategy meeting at Chequers three weeks ago, is a restruc-turing of Whitehall to reduce the number of departments, and possi-bly also ministers. At present, there are 84 ministers and whips in the Commons, compared with 33 a century ago when Whitehall ruled an Empire covering a third of the earth. The disappearance of the

TARIDDELT ... ON POLITICS

Empire has, of course, been offset by a vast extension of the State's But since 1979 central govern-

ment has sought to pull back via privatisation, contracting out, a big reduction in the number of civil servants and the Next Steps executive agencies running large areas of administration. Some departments have disappeared - Energy into Trade and Industry, and Employment into Education - though a new one. National Heritage, has less successfully, been created. But there has been no reduction in the overall number of ministers. Trade

and Industry still has seven despite the privatisation of virtually all the old nationalised industries, while the Treasury has five. Having coped with painful cuts in Civil Service numbers, most permanent secretaries I know believe that ministerial teams should also be slimmed down. One volunteered which ministers could go in his department.

So any reshuffle of departmental responsibilities - perhaps involving agriculture, transport and broadcasting - will only be convincing if it is accompanied by a reduction in the number of ministers. The present total has more to do with satisfying the ambitions of career politicians and with the patronage of the whips than with

the needs of government. But a slimmer executive should also be accompanied by a slimmer legislature. The Commons has risen from 625 in the 1950s to 659 after the election following various boundary reviews. This is unwieldy. The only larger elected chamber is the German Bundestag following unification, though many other countries have a federal structure with regional assemblies. If devolution is implemented here, there would be an ever stronger case not just for ending the over-representation of Scotland, but also for reducing the size of the Commons to, say, 450 to 500. Of course, many MPs will be

worried about losing their seats but

a change could be phased in and

accompany the regular boundary

reviews when many members anyway retire. Labour has proposals for making the Commons more effective, but has not proposed any reduction in the number of ministers or MPs.

Indeed, its current shadow team is 100 strong and Tony Blair will not want to disappoint all those eager shadows who have been waiting so long for office. The Liberal Democrats have been prepared to address these issues and they are the only national party to advocate fewer ministers and fewer MPs, but they have had no ministers since the wartime coalition and no more than a couple of dozen MPs for 60

PETER RIDDELL

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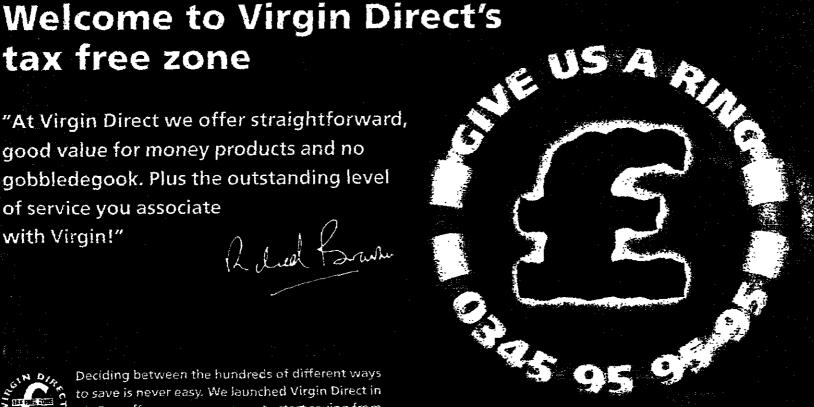
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Netanyahu: dismissed charges as "nonsense"

Netanyahu

questioned

by police

on scandal

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE Israeli Prime Minister

was last night questioned formally by police for the first

time in their investigations

into an alleged political cor-ruption scandal surrounding

the short-lived appointment

of an Attorney General. Binyamin Netanyahu was

questioned in his Jerusalem

office. The investigation

stems from a report by Israel Television that Arych Deri

leader of the ultra-Orthodox

Shas party and member of the ruling coalition, had

agreed to support the pullout of Israeli troops from He-

bron in return for the ap-

pointment of Roni Bar-On as

Attorney-General and if a

plea bargain was arranged in

Mr Deri's own fraud and bribery case that is before the

courts. The charges have so far been unsupported. Mr Netanyahu has dis-

missed them as "nonsense"

and has accused the tele-

vision station of left-wing

bias. Mr Bar-On was an

obscure lawyer and a former football club chairman be-

fore his appointment. He

resigned after two days in the

post as legal and political leaders charged that he was

☐ Villages shelled: Israeli and allied militia forces

shelled three south Lebanou

villages, killing a woman and

wounding two other people,

security sources said. The

helling was in breach of a

US-brokered ceasefire deal

allied militia from targeting

civilian areas. (Reuter)

unsuitable for the job.

Russia seeks to strengthen Middle East peace role FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

YASSIR ARAFAT, the Palestinian leader, had talks yesterday in the Kremlin with President Yeltsin at the start President Yelisin at the start of a two-day visit seen as part of an effort to revive Russia's flagging role in the Middle East peace process.

A beaming Mr Yelisin looking fit and energetic despite reports of continuing Ill health that seems the

health, was shown on television_striding to meet the Palestinian leader. The two men embraced, before Mr Arafat reached up to plant three kisses on his host's

During the meeting, which Mr Arafat later described as very warm and friendly, Mr Yeltsin reiterated his determination that "Russia will continue intensive efforts to promote the settlement of differences and the establishment of peace and good neighbourly relations in the

Mr Arafat's visit is expected to be followed next month by

Palestinian bourse opens

Jerusalem: The Palestinians took another important step towards an independent state yesterday with the opening of the first stock exchange in the self-rule areas created by the 1993 peace treaty with Israel (Christopher Walker writes).

The stock market in Nablus. the largest West Bank city, joined other symbols of statehood already in place, includ-ing a flag, an elected legislature, a national airline and

passports. Designed to attract Palestinian finance from the diaspora, the fully automated bourse. built at a cost of \$2 million (£1,200,000), began business with 23 companies listed and a further 20 due to follow soon. Index — will be added next.

a trip to Moscow by Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister.

The Interfax news agency said that Mr Aralat, who later met Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister, and Gen-nadi Seleznyov, the Chairman of the State Duma, had emphasised that Russia had a most important role to play in assuring stability and security in the Middle East.

"Mr Arafat's visit should be viewed in the context of a further deepening of Russian-Palestinian co-operation aimed at advancing the peace process," a Foreign Ministry official was quoted as saying. Russia is a co-sponsor of the

Middle East peace process, along with the United States, but Moscow's influence in the region has plummeted since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The appointment of Mr Primakov, an Arab specialist, to replace Andrei Kozyrev at the Foreign Ministry last year, was widely regarded as a signal of Russia's determination to take a more assertive role in Middle East affairs.

Mr Primakov, who had earlier worked as chief of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service, had a reputation as a friend of some of the more radical leaders of the Arab world, including Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi President

During his talks with Mr Arafai, which are due to continue today, Mr Primakov expressed Russia's support for the Palestinian leadership's policy of negotiation with Israel

☐ Journalist punished: The Kremlin yesterday took away the accreditation of a journalist who reported that Mr Yeltsin's wife, Naina, had asked him to step down for health reasons. Sergei Yastrzhembsky. a Kremlin spokesman, said the daily Komsomolskaya Pravda, market index — the Jerusalem change its Kremlin correspondent (AFP)



Despite continuing reports of ill health, President Yeltsin was on hand to greet Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, at the Kremlin yesterday where Mr Arafat had talks with Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister

Japan to seek extradition of five Red Army guerrillas from Beirut

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

JAPAN plans to request the extradition of five Red Army guerrillas arrested in Lebanon, among them a key figure in the people dead. The five and three supporters, all Japanese, were captured by Lebanese authorities in raids on hideouts in the Bekaa Valley, the Red Army's base since the early 1970s.

Japan's National Police Agency has sent a team to Lebanon to confirm the identities of the group, believed to include five terrorists on the international wanted list. Lebanese officials say one is Kozo Okamoto, 49, sought for the machinegun and grenade attack at Tel Aviv's Lod Airport Also in custody are Kazuo Tohira, 44, the Red Army's master last April that bars the Initially it will hold one which published the story on passport forger, who was arrested in Hezbollah and Israeli and its trading session a week. A Monday, had been asked to Stockbolm in early 1975, and extradited to Japan. He was later released by Japan in a deal to free hostages when the US

Consulate in Kuala Lumpur was seized in August 1975.

The Red Army achieved notoriety for 20 terrorist attacks including the September 1977 hijacking of a Japan Airlines plane in Dhaka. Still at large are Fusako Shigenobu, who founded the group in Lebanon in 1971 with the support of Palestinian factions, and seven others on the international wanted list.

According to Japanese police, the group counts no more than 40 active members who find it increasingly difficult to operate. Its last confirmed terrorist incident was the 1988 bombing of an American military base in Naples. The end of the Cold War, the collapse of communist regimes, and the momentum of the Middle East peace process has deprived the guernilas of operational bases and safe havens. By contrast navens. By contrast groups such as the pro-framian Lebanon

Hezbollah organisation, which has its stronghold in the Bekaa Valley, remain valuable to Damascus and Tehran.

For the Governments of Lebanon and Syria - without whose consent the new arrests could not have been made - the Red Army's Bekaa presence has become an embarrassment. Four years ago the guerrillas began scouring Asia and Latin America for new hideouts. Three senior members have been caught in Romania. Peru. Nepal in the past two years.

The arrests will have delighted the Beirut Government, which is working hard to shed Lebanon's image as a terrorist haven, seeking to boost its tourism industry and win international investment for an ambitious postwar reconstruction programme. They could of Syria, which has 40,000 troops in

India to deport Sobhrai

Delhi: The Indian Government decided yesterday to drop all pending cases against the famed criminal Charles Sobhraj and pressed for his speedy deportation to France. A prosecutor said his pres-ence in India was prejudicial to the state. Two cases pending against Sobhraj concern a lapsed Thai extradition request and the other stems from a 1986 jailbreak that earned him fame. (Reuter)

Algeria toll rises Algiers: About 30 men shot, hacked or burnt to death 33 villagers in Blida, south of the capital, as battles intensified between the army and Muslim militants. Nearby a bomb killed a railway engineer. (AP)

President ill

Colombo: President Bandaranaike Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka is in hospital with a stomach ailment, but it is not thought to be serious, officials said. She will be 81 in April (AP) Linion

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Erotic initiative

Cairo: An unabridged Arabic four-volume edition of 1,001 Nights, including the erotic scenes, has been published in Egypt for the first time, based in 1819. (Ā*FP)*

Death sentence

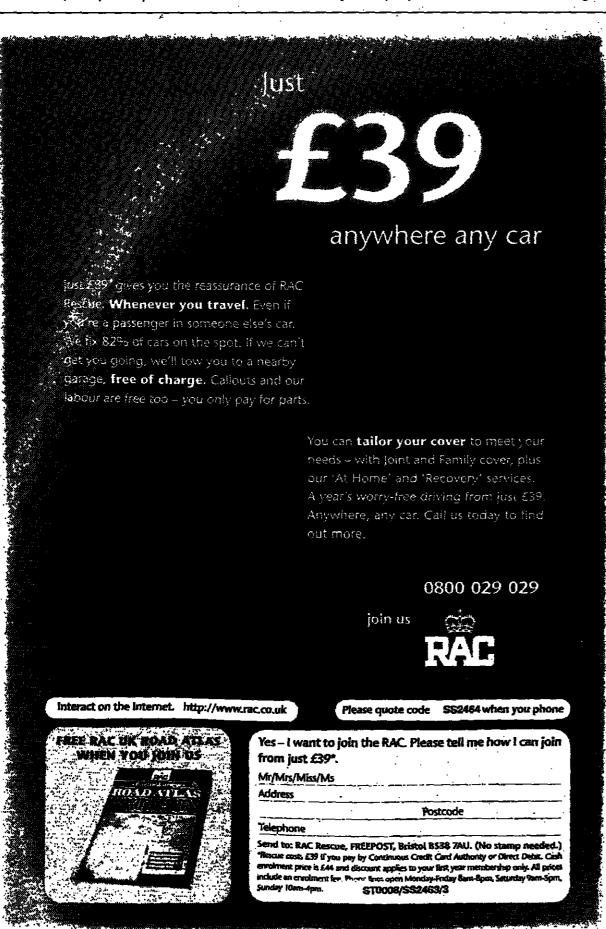
Harare: George Chikwamure and Nyenyai Mudenge were sentenced to death after killing a villager they abducted at random. A businessman paid £1.50 for his brain - seen as a lucky charm. (AFP)

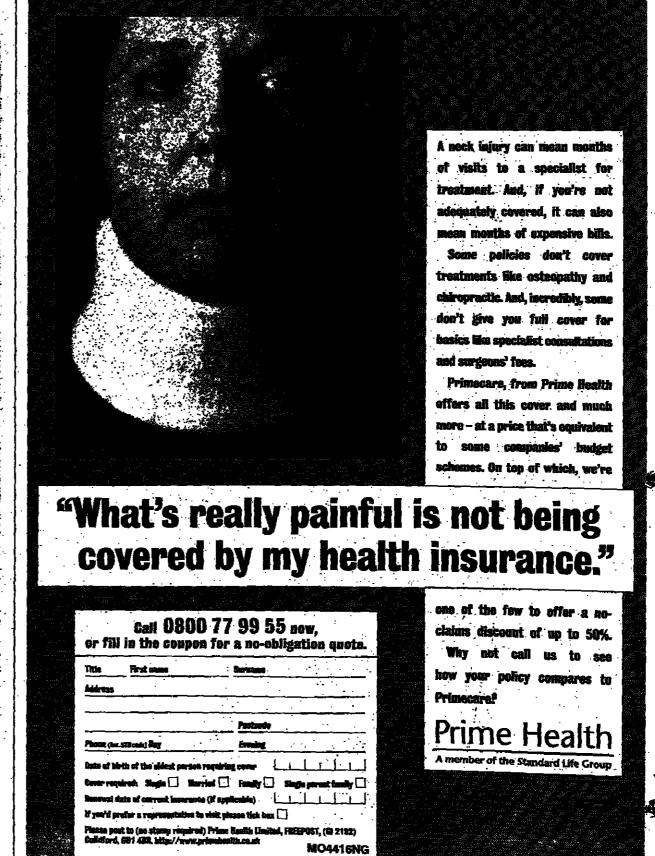
Hubble ready

Houston: Servicing and repairs to the Hubble space telescope have been completed and the Discovery shuttle was taking it to an orbit nine miles higher before releasing it into free flight early today. (AP)

Bean runners

Berne: Swiss authorities are closing in on a smuggling operation illegally transporting thousands of tonnes of and beans, into the country Series (from Italy: (Reuter)





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KENNETH STARR once seen by the White House as a nor would he want to surrendemon sent to torment President Clinton, was yesterday dubbed "Clinton's lucky

Mr Starr's unexpected decision to step down as special prosecutor for the Whitewater affair is widely interpreted as a sign that his 212-year investigation has failed to build a strong criminal case against the President or the First Lady.

While Mr Starr said yesterday that nothing should be read into his departure, the White House was ecstatic. There are a lot of smiles around here today," said one

During Monday's national holiday of Presidents Day, it emerged that Mr Starr had decided to leave the Whitewater investigation by August l to become dean of Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, as well as the founding dean of its new school of public policy.

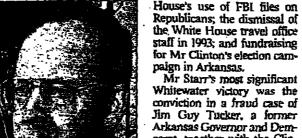
He told The New York Times: "I would read nothing into this [his departure] except it is an extraordinary opportunity for me. That it came when it did is merely a happy coincidence and I had no control over the timing."

However, that explanation, coming from a man who has spent his recent professional life pouring scorn on claims of coincidence, has done nothing to dispel speculation. Many Democrats argued yesterday that he would not be stepping down if he was on the verge of

der the glory to his successor. You don't spend 212 years and \$35 million (£22 million) and recommend you prose cute, but don't do it yourself. It doesn't make any sense," said one Administration official.

Some Republicans argued, however, that he may well be preparing to hand the case over to associates. Some involved in the investigation noted that his departure would have little effect as he had not carried out the prose-cution of any of the Whitewater-related cases, nor would he have done so in the

The tortuous investigation began as an inquiry into the Clintons' failed Whitewater land deal in Arkansas and the suicide of Vincent Foster, the suicide of Vincent Foster, the these investigations by with-White House deputy counsel. holding evidence, the White



Starr says timing of decision is coincidence

However, it quickly spread into a medley of intertwined inquiries: Arkansas financial dealings by the Clintons and their friends; whether anyone in the White House obstructed

Unions in \$60m drive to boost membership

By Bronwen Maddox

AMERICA'S labour unions dustrial clout. The weekend's will launch a \$60 million (£37 abortive American Airlines strike, halted by presidential order, was an added insult to million) drive for new members this week to try to stem two decades of decline. the once-mighty labour unions. A mere 14.5 per cent of American workers are now

The drive, led by John Sweeney, President of the AFL-CIO - the union timmembers, compared with brella organisation with 13 more than a third in the 1950s million members — is a when the nower of the Teamsters was compared with that desperate attempt to regain dwindling political and in-

staff in 1993; and fundraising for Mr Clinton's election campaign in Arkansas. Mr Starr's most significant Whitewater victory was the

conviction in a fraud case of Jim Guy Tucker, a former Arkansas Governor and Democrat, together with the Clintons' former business partners James and Susan McDougal However, his investigation suffered a setback with the partial acquittal of two Arkanspiring to conceal large cash withdrawals by Mr Clinton's 1990 campaign for the state governorship. Republicans were also dis-

appointed that no charges were brought against the Clintons before last November's presidential elections. Some argued that he had simply restrained himself from tak ing such a politically-charged step in the run-up to the

To many, however, that argument seemed suspect, given Mr Starr's aggression as an investigator.

It may be that another special prosecutor will be appointed and criminal charges against the Clintons may follow. In retrospect, however, Mr Starr's failure to bring indictments before the election may seem the first sign that his investigation would end not with a bang, but a fizzle.

Leading article, page 19



The brown tree snake, whose fellows have already wiped out nine of the 11 species of birds native to Guam

New threat slithers towards America

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA is facing a threat to its shores from a slithering predator capable of destroying whole populations.

The brown tree snake, Boiga irregularis, although not lethal for humans, has killed 17 species of animal in the American territory of Guam, including nine of the island's 11 native birds. And the voracious reptile, which often reaches a length of 10ft, is thought to be making steady progress towards the United States.

It was recently sighted on Saipan in the northern Marianas and could soon reach

Hawaii. Officials fear that the snake. which has a habit of hiding in ships and aircraft, could then simply slink from the

Pacific to the American mainland. The US Government is so concerned that President Clinton has set aside \$1.5 million (£928,000) of his proposed budget to increase border patrols and for the development of chemicals to combat

What is at stake is the ecology of many islands in the Pacific and there is a danger for America as well," Tom Fritts, of the Interior Department, said. A native of Australia, where it is kept in check by parasites, the coffee-coloured snake spread to the Pacific islands on military lanes and cargo ships after the Second World War. In Guam, where it has no natural enemies, its population reached 30,000 a square mile before levelling off at 12,000 a square mile in some forested

In the decades since its arrival, the reptile has wiped out such beautiful species as the Mariana fruit dove, the Micronesian kingfisher and the Micronesian honeyeater.

Castro throws a party for Hollywood cigar-lovers

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

CUBA'S Marxist President, Fidel Castro, has invited some of Hollywood's flashiest stars to Havana for a few days of cigar smoking and inhaling the comradely airs at the Tropicana Club.

The official purpose of next week's party is to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Cohiba, the strong, slow-burning cigar which Senor Castro made famous in his smoking days, although he has now given up.

invitations have gone out quietly to 100 prominent Americans, including the film actors Jack Nicholson, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Danny De-Vito, Matt Dillon and the cheroot-fancying mannequin, Linda Evangelista Leading businessmen, who may want discreetly to invest a dollar or two, were also said to be on the The United States normally prohibits its citizens from travelling to Cuba, which it has iong regarded as a hostile nation, but it was understood that the guests for the grand Comba party have got around the regulations, possibly by getting a third party to pay for their flights. A Spanish tobacco wholesaler is underwriting much of the cost of the Cuban extravaganza.

Before it was put on the market in 1966, the Cohiba as made exclusively for Se nor Castro and his cronies. When sufficiently impressed at official receptions, he would reach inside his fatigues and produce a Cohiba as a reward for visiting dignitaries. There are smoother smokes than the Cohiba, which is better suited to the palate of revolutionaries than it is to tender Western



Castro in his smoking days and Linda Evangelista, the cheroot-fancying model invited to the party

most sought-after names in humidor-polishing circles.

Chris O'Hara, of New York's Smoke magazine, which has been invited to the Havana party, described the harsh but easily the most desired Cuban cigar: celebrities and tycoons love it". Havanas are illegal in the United States, but contraband boxes of Cohibas, containing 25 cigars, sell for as much as \$800 (£495). There is also a

Because of the sensitivity of the Cuban question in America, there was no immediate confirmation of who among those invited had risked public opprobrium and had accepted Señor Castro's invitation.

Tickets for the beano will cost \$500 each, enough to keep a Cuban family for a good year. For American visitors, the Cuban trip will at least afford the rare joy of being allowed to smoke openly in public without incurring bleats of disapproval from anti-tobacco campaigners, ox-ygen freaks, health fascists and various other professional

John Kavulich, head of the US-Cuba Trade and Economic Council, said that he believed that all those who had accepted were "going legally". Richard Sachs, a Florida stockbroker, told the Sun-Sentinel newspaper of Fort Lauderdale that to someone who smokes cigars, it is like going to the Oscars".

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> EXCITING RETURNS SAFELY MANAGED

by thieves Buenos Aires: Thieves yester-

mafia law from the offices of the Argentine Chamber of Deputies, officials said. They copied dozens of com-

Anti-mafia

Bill pinched

puter files to disks, then erased files from the computers, said Santiago Rossi, an aide to Miguel Angel Torna, the chairman of the parliamentary defence committee, in addition to the draft Bill, among the lost files was background information on anti-Mafia legislation in the United States and Italy.

The thieves, who got past a double lock on the door, took a fax machine and a television set to try to throw off investigators, Señor Rossi said. (AFP)



Cattle and deer perish as Midwest freezes

By QUENTIN LETTS

THOUSANDS of deer and cattle have died across the northern plains of the American Midwest after a winter of rare severity.
Wild whitetail have entered

built-up areas in search of food and frozen pheasant have plummeted from the skies, killed by prolonged spells of sub-zero temperatures and deep snow. Minnesota and the Dakotas

have been hardest hit, with ranchers losing more than 11,000 head of cattle in North Dakota alone. South Dakota has had 25ft of snow since the start of winter.

In what has been described as the worst winter for 102 years, wind-chill has been an added hazard, with ity gusts persisting for days on end. The major interstate highways have been closed eight times and President Clinton declared North Dakota a disaster area, making it eligi-

ble for federal funds. Country-sports enthusiasts, so often depicted as cruel, have been leading humanitarian efforts to help the hard-hit deer. Farmers watched at first in irritation as the hungry

deer entered barns to eat stored hay bales. As the bonechilling winter has continued, many farmers have taken pity on the whitetail deer and have voluntarily fed them.

State authorities have dropped tonnes of corn in remote areas as food for the stricken wildlife. In Minnesota, the state capitol has seen local politicians debating emergency measures for deer Bruce Meyer, a farmer with

600 acres in Appleton, western Minnesota, said: "I don't know how many bushels of corn the deer have eaten so far. It has gotten so bad that at times I have 30 in the yard, jumping fences and getting in with the cattle to get at their feed. The deer aren't even afraid of me. I can walk to within 20ft of them. The other day, got on a snowmobile and chased them away and that worked pretty well. But they are eating a lot of food."

Evergreen trees as tall as lost have been stripped bare by the ravenous deer. LaVonne Gloege, a farmer's wife in Odessa, told the Star Tribune newspaper that she had lost 200 trees to the deer.

هكذا من رلامل

Albright proposes joint Nato-Russia peacekeeping unit

By MICHAEL EVANS AND LEYLA LINTON

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT, formed. The question of comthe US Secretary of State. proposed yesterday that Nato and Russia form a joint bri-gade for peacekeeping and crisis management missions. She outlined the proposal

during a statement to Nato's North Atlantic Council in Brussels, the first time she had decision-making body since her new appointment.

Although the idea of form-ing a Nato/Russian brigade of about 5,000 soldiers has been discussed within the alliance over the past three months. this latest idea for forging closer practical links with the Russian armed forces had not been made public.

Ms Albright's support for the concept came in a statement which underlined a personal commitment to build a new security partnership with Russia at the same time as pushing ahead with Nato's plans for enlargement

Nato sources said the idea of forming a brigade followed directly on from the experience in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where Russian troops have alongside alliance

Nato wants to ensure that after the Bosnia operation is over, the peacekeeping partnership between alliance and Russian troops is maintained. Ms Albright said: "We could begin immediately to

develop a joint Nato/Russia Nato sources said there were a number of options being considered. Although it was unlikely that there would be a standing brigade perma-

nently on standby, units who

would train together could be

mand and control would have to be resolved depending on the nature of the operation and the countries contributing

troops, they said.
The Russians have already been apprised of this new idea. been apprised of this new loca, along with other proposals including an exchange of mili-tary officers at the main command headquarters.

Ms Albright, who will soon be meeting Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, told the North Atlantic Coun cil yesterday that Russia had legitimate concerns about Nato enlargement "that are

She said it was envisaged that a Nato-Russia Joint would be formed which would "promote a regular dialogue on major security issues, reach concerted decisions where possible and seize opportunities for joint action". She said she recognised that Russian leaders opposed the

enlargement and "that this is



Albright: her resolve

that the alliance should not waver from its intentions to offer membership to several Central European countries at the Nato summit in Madrid in July. "Our goal is an undivid-ed Europe," she said. "We must ensure that every European democracy, whether it joins Nato sooner, later or not

> She said a "critical task" in the weeks ahead was to build a which both Moscow and Europe would clearly benefit. Later, at a press conference,

at all, has a role. This includes

Ms Albright said that Russia should be a "full participant" of Nato, but without a veto. "Russia will have a voice but Russia will not have a veto," she said.

She said a joint military brigade was still only a "con-cept", but added: "I would hope that it would have a real

She said that membership negotiations should be cometed by the end of the year so that the first new members could join the alliance by 1999. which is Nato's fiftieth anniversary.

She refused to comment on the cost of enlarging Nato. President Clinton is due to make an an announcement about the estimated cost in a report to the US Congress in a

Nato sources said that Ms Albright's first visit to the Brussels headquarters since becoming Secretary of State had confirmed her to be a resolute and determined personality, which was welcomed by all the member states.

Simon Jenkins, page 18



Veteran stars Lauren Bacall and Alain Delon fail to shine for Berlin Film Festival critics who panned their new film, directed by a novice

Tears of mirth for philosopher's 'weepie'

FRANCE'S highest-profile intellectual was trying to remain philosophical yesterday after his debut as a feature film director received one of the most savage drubbings in recent cinema history.

Hundreds in the audience walked out before the end of the world premiere of Bernard-Henri Lévy's Le Jour et La Nuit at the Berlin Film Festival on Monday. Many who remained burst into spontaneous applause and hoots of mirth at the moment when the film's hero dies by blowing himself up in a hot-air balloon. M Lévy had promised the audience it would leave in tears, but he meant of

Boasting an all-star cast including Alain Delon, Lauren Bacall and Arielle Dombasle, the director's actress-model wife, the film was financed with French and European public funds, shot in

Mexico and billed - most energetically by M Levy himself - as a breakthrough in French cinema. Instead it has been panned as vapid, pretentious and semipornographic. One critic, Gérard Lefort, said it had the "subtlety of a bolldozer".

M Delon, in an understatement that sparked fresh derision, told a packed news conference. "I get the impression some of you did not like the film." Miss Bacall refused to say if it ranked among her professional highlights. "That's an interesting question," she hedged. M Lévy insisted that the attacks "tell us

more about the state of mind of the people writing them than about the quality of the film". But they also say much about the state of the French film industry, and M Levy's waning reputation as France's premier intellectual. As a novelist, documentary-maker, play-wright, pundit and moral arbiter, BHL, as he is usually known, has garnered greater publicity and more enemies than any other modern French philosophe, Some detractors have pointed out that only in the clique-ridden French art

world would an untried film maker have been given the backing to write, cast and direct a movie principally on the basis of his name and high-level contacts.

Abuse directed at BHL has reached such a level that his allies have felt moved

to defend him. The writer Françoise Giroud, who co-wrote a book about love with M Levy, described the "cabal" against him as "grotesque".

Italy attacks West's lack of coherent

But even she conceded: "BHL is no Lévy: his intellectual



Road race craze brings terror to autobahn

BY ROGER BOYES

A NEW craze for high-speed races on the autobahn network is bringing chaos to German motorways and twice this week has resulted in

The races take place at night and the drivers are often well-

heeled teenagers with their own BMWs and Toyotas. In the early hours of Monday morning, II youths with fresh-ly polished Volkswagen Golfs, Opels, Hondas, and BMWs met in a layby near Gelsenkirchen in the Ruhr, the industri-

dezvous, they were speeding three abreast along a double lane on the A42; they had covered nine miles when the race ended in a disastrous

Yesterday, almost 48 hours aner the race, bo al heartland of Germany. clearing away the debris Within minutes of their ren- which was spread over a 100-

yard area. The first driver had smashed into the back of a 27year-old woman's Mercedes: both were badly injured. The racers were driving almost bumper to bumper and were unable to brake in time. All the day, while police waited to

lack of a coherent Western security policy" in the increasingly troubled and volatile eastern Mediterranean and

den in shoring up stability.
Piero Fassino, the Deputy Foreign Minister, said there was "no European policy to speak of in the region, where countries from Albania and Bulgaria to Algeria and Turkey were in ferment.

complained that it was having to shoulder much of the bur-

There are piecemeal policies and initiatives on Cyprus or Turkey, Albania or Bulgar-ia." Signor Fassino said. "But

vision. We need a European policy, first, and then we need clear agreement between Europe and the United States. In the absence of a consensus, Italy will continue to take the

lead. But we do not want to

pursue a policy on our own."
Signor Passino, 47, regarded as one of the sharpest brains in Italian diplomacy, has travelled extensively in the region since the Centre-Left came to power in Italy nearly a year ago. He is also a rising star in Italian politics.

His remarks come at a time of tension between France and

policy on Mediterranean security FROM RICHARD OWEN TO PROMISE future of the Nato Mediterra-

nean command in Naples. Signor Fassino said Italy was working closely with the Uni-ted States over Albania, where Italy had a "special historical role" because of its colonisation and subsequent military occupation of the country undêr Mussolmi. Albania is 40 miles across

the Adriatic from Italy and reminders of the country's colonial rule have survived the Communist decades of isolation: every town has an Italianate town hall or library all sadly dilapidated - and

ings lining the Boulevard of the Martyrs in Tirana date from the Fascist era. Italian is more commonly

spoken there than English or

German and the Italian press still refers to Shkodra as "Scutari" and Vlore as "Valona Southern Italian entrepreneurs dominate the Albanian economy: it was announced yesterday that bankers from Aversa, near Naples, were stepping in to prop up Vefa Holdings, the main company involved in

the failed pyramid savings

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Nazi gold hunters close in on Sweden's Wallenberg dynasty

HUNTERS of Nazi gold and Sweden's wartime secrets are closing in on the Wallenberg dynasty. the family that holds sway over much of the country's economy.

Their target is the late Jacob Wallenberg, the banker who negotiated Sweden's trading relationship with Nazi Germany: the family is determined that investigators do not project him as an amoral partner of the Hitler regime.

The controversy, which is focusing on who should gain access to the Wallenberg family archives for the wartime years, is particularly piquant because of the hero status of Jacob's cousin, Raoul It was Raoul Wallenberg who helped to save about 100,000 Hungarian Jews, partly by bribing and bluffing German officals. After the war he was arrested by the Russians and

disappeared in the gular.
Jacob, uncle of Peter Wallenberg. who heads the dynasty now, was an altogether different character. He had active contacts with the German resistance, above all with Carl Goerdeler who was hanged on Hitler's orders, but he was also a frequent and welcome guest of the Berlin regime. Jacob Wallenberg played golf near the Wannser (where the extermination of the Jews was planned) and ate lobster in the city's best restaurant. His brother, Marcus, paid visits to Hermann Goering, whose first wife was a Swedish countess. While Marcus determined Sweden's trad-

ing relationship with the Allies,

Roger Boyes reports from Stockholm on the developing struggle to gain access to the wartime archives of a secretive and powerful family that still controls much of the Swedish economy

Jacob concentrated on the Germans. Swedish ore and ball bearings were sold to the Germans -rocket components for the V2 were stamped "Made in Sweden" - in return for coal, fertilisers and oil.

The halance was made up by payments of gold from the Third Reich. The gold was originally said to be from prewar German reserves, but long after that was shown to be nonsense the gold

shipments continued. A document from the Swedish Central Bank, dated August 24. 1944, records Jacob Wallenberg urging Swedish bankers to continue gold transactions with the Nazis.

The friendship between Ivar Rooth, the Swedish Central Bank chief, and Per Jacobsson, the Swedish-born chief economist of the Basle-based Bank for International Settlements, ensured that the

the gold was plundered from the hanks of occupied countries and perhaps had more sinister origins. At the Nuremberg trials, Emil Puhl, deputy head of Hitler's Central Bank, agreed that some gold robbed from Jewish concentration camp victims had been melted into bars and used in trade.

All these facts have emerged over the past few weeks. For Swedes, the shock is equivalent to that felt by the Swiss. The Wallenbergs play a prominent role in the country. Their empire includes the car maker Saab, the ball bearings company SKF and the electrical engineering firm ABB.

Trading with Germany was forced on Sweden because of its

encirclement by Germany. Yet Swedes are wondering whether they did not pay too high a moral price for their passive role.

The Swedish Government is determined not to fall into the same public relations trap as the Swiss. One of the first moves was to set up a working group to study archives. including those of the Wallenbergs. But the family insists that only a government commission should do the job. Now the argument is about who should sit on such a

commission. Raoul plea: Guy von Dardel, half-brother of Raoui Wallenberg. has called on the Swedish Government to open its files in an attempt to clarify his fate. Some say he is



Raoul Wallenberg: saved Jews from deportation

Russian bishops begin final steps to canonise last Tsar

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

TALKS began yesterday on making Nicholas II, the last Tsar, a saint in what would be a dramatic reversal of 70 years of Soviet ideology, which branded him a bloody tyrant.

Nearly 80 years after the Tsar was murdered with his family by the Bolsheviks in July 1918, the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church has opened deliberations on the issue. The Synod will put its final recommendation before the Assembly of Bishops, which is about to hold its twoyearly convocation, If, as expected, the Synod decides in favour, the Tsar, his wife, Alexandra, and their five children could be saints by the end of the year.

The first steps towards the canonisation of the Russian Royal Family were taken in October when the Synod ordered a nationwide survey of church opinion after a twoyear study. The move is certain to highlight the political divisions in a country where a large proportion of the population still hankers after its Communist past. Tsar Nicholas abdicated in

March 1917. After unsuccessful attempts to negotiate sanctuary with his cousin, King George V, the Russian Royal Family was moved to the

Urals, eventually arriving at the city of Yekaterinburg where they were held in the house of a local merchant. On July 17 they were shot and bayoneted to death with three servants and the family

doctor. Supporters of canonisation argue that Russia would have been spared millions of deaths under the Communists if the Tsar's rule had continued and that, as a symbol of Russia, the Tsar's canonisation would be an act of faith for the entire

Last month the regional governor in Yekaterinburg ordered the construction of a memorial church to mark the



Tsar Nicholas II: killed with his family in 1918

murder spot. That order, by Eduard Rossel, was in response to long-standing calls from the Orthodox Church for a church on the site of the Inatyev house, where the Royal Family spent their last weeks. The house was demolished in 1977 on the orders of Boris Yeltsin, then regional Communist chief.

In his memoirs President Yeltsin said he was acting on secret orders from the Politburo in Moscow to bulldoze the building, because of fears that it could become a destination for monarchist pilgrims. He said he had no choice but to carry out this senseless The remains of the Royal

Family were taken to nearby woods and buried. They lay undiscovered until the late 1980s and only in the last two years have their identities been confirmed through DNA testing. Now a bitter argument is being waged between the authorities in Yekaterinburg and in St Petersburg -where previous Romanovs are - over where they should finally be laid to rest. Mr Rossel's move to establish a church on the Ipatyev house site, which is now marked only by a crude wooden framework of a church, would add



Members of the Orthodox Bishops' Synod gather in Moscow yesterday for their meeting, at which the canonisation proposal was due to be examined

strength to his city's claim, although few doubt that St Petersburg will eventually

prevail. Over the past few months Russian interest in the monarchy has soared, while the debate over the possible restitution of a Tsar is frequently aired in the newspapers and on television. The idea has won strong support from the Orthodox Church, which

would regard its own position as greatly strengthened if a Tsar were anointed by the

Patriarch. Mr Yeltsin has played a part in promoting the debate. Last year, soon after his re-election, he spoke of the need for Russia to find a new purpose and ideal, to fill the vacuum left by the discarded and discredited Communist ideology. The only clear idea to emerge from

his proposal was that of restoring the monarchy. There were even rumours

that the President supported the idea and had drafted a secret decree inviting Grand Duke Georgi, considered to be the closest surviving relative of the Tsar, to come to Russia. The Kremlin issued a swift denial that any such secret decree existed.

While interest in the monar-

inappropriate. Oil spill: Russian officials acknowledged yesterday that

chy is clearly growing, it still

seems inconceivable that Rus-

sia would be able to revert to a

system that it rejected vehe-

mently more than 70 years

ago. The notion of a constitu-

tional monarch in a country

that has tended towards

strong, or even authoritarian.

leadership would seem very

about 1,500 tonnes of oil spilt out of a burst pipeline in southwestern Russia, but said the Volga river was not affected. The emergency situations ministry said between 300 and 400 tonnes of oil spilt into a tributary of the Volga, the Meshetka, after the incident, but that dams and "other obstacles" kept the oil from contaminating Volga_(AFP)

Chinese deny Deng health fear

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BELITING

THE Chinese Government the health of its 92-year-old senior leader. Deng Xiaoping, had worsened. A Foreign Ministry spokesman massive stroke.

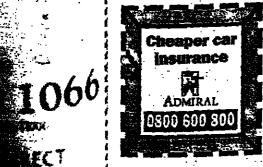
Asian stock markets have been shaken in the past two days by the rumours, despite their recurrence every few

There were also reports that other leaders, such as Jiang Zemin, the party chief, and Li Peng, the Prime Minister, had cut short pro-vincial trips to return to Beijing to see Mr Deng, who gave up his last official post after the military suppression of pro-democracy protests in 1989. He has not appeared in public for three years.

Diplomats say the present leadership cannot claim the political authority once held by Mr Deng and appears uncertain of the way ahead. There are fears that his death could lead to instability.

Some envoys speculated that the senior leaders returned, if they did, because from the defection of a North Korean leader. Hwang Jang Yop, now in a South Korean diplomatic compound. Armed Chinese police were holding back North Korean officials who, until Monday, had gathered outside. However, Kim Jong II,

North Korea's leader, yesterday reinforced an earlier statement by his Government which suggested it might accept Mr Hwang's defection. He said "cowards" who wanted to leave the country should go ahead and do so.



Dutch veto plan eases way to a two-speed Europe

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN STRASBOURG

EUROPEAN states would be free to pursue closer integration without lear of veto in such areas as taxation and frontier controls, according to a draft for the revamped Maastricht treaty tabled by the Dutch Government.

The text produced by The Netherlands, the country chairing the treaty discussion. will serve as the basis for negotiation in coming weeks on a formula for a new multispeed Union that would amount to machinery for states to opt out of deeper

integration. The Dutch version, handed to other governments on Monday, allows for the veto to be preserved in future foreign and defence policy, but it sides with the strong majority of member states that object to Britain's demand for unanimous voting on every area of

integration.
The British Government says it will veto any scheme to create machinery for a "flexible" Europe that does not require unanimous consent for every such action. The Labour Party appears to share the Tories qualms, although most other states argue that the formula would lead to

paralysis. Although it keeps the door open for various voting options, the Dutch draft says states must not stand in the way of the desire of the others to move to "closer co-operation" in internal Europen Union matters, provided that certain conditions

The main novelty of The Hague's proposal is that two thirds of member states must favour any such step. Once this was acquired, the new group could work for closer integration in such areas as indirect taxation within the states taking part in monetary union, health and safety in the workplace and the environment, according to the Dutch

A big bloc of participating states is needed in these socalled core "Community" affairs to ensure that the EU is not fragmented by competing

officials said. The "co-operating group" would be able to use all the machinery of the EU, from the Commission to the Court of Justice, but the costs of any new policy would be born only the participating states. The Dutch text proposes that. in the field of immigration and justice affairs, support from a qualified majority of the member states should be enough to

authorise common action. Refining the machinery for a "flexible" EU will be at the centre of negotiations leading to the Amsterdam summit next June, at which EU leaders are scheduled to finish the

Maastricht revamp. The scheme, which was first floated by the French and the Germans last October, has been embraced by a majority of the EU's 15 states as inevitable, given the need to accommodate a stream of new members from the former Communist bloc and the Mediterranean over the the next

Many, however, harbour qualms over its possible use by France and Germany and their close allies to reinforce a powerful "inner core" of EU states inside the future zone of

monetary union.
The Government and the Labour Party see flexibility as a solution to Britain's perennial conflicts with its more federalist partners, but they are also wary of the risk of its use as a means to push Britain

Commonwealth ministers delay decision on Nigeria sanctions

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE prospect of Commonwealth sanctions against Nigeria receded yesterday, after a ministerial action group called for further evidence from human rights activists before making a decision.

its failure to recommend immediate sanctions was criticised yesterday by Labour, which said the mission was paving the way for a sell-out. Canada, one of the strongest critics of Nigeria, also voiced anger at the slow place of change there, but was pleased that human rights campaigners would be able to express their views to the action group. The eight foreign ministers.

Zimbabwe, called for more information from civilians and non-government organisations at a further meeting in July before giving their advice to the Commwealth heads of government meeting in Edinburgh in October.

Labour has taken a strong line against the military Government of General Sani Abacha, and Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, has made clear Labour's intention to seek tougher curbs. including oil sanctions, should the party come to power.

It is vital that the Commonwealth sends a strong signal to General Abacha that it will led by Stan Mudenge of not tolerate the delaying of the timetable for democracy in Nigeria," Tony Lloyd, the Shadow Foreign Minister, said yesterday. He added that free and fair elections must be held by October next year, and all political prisoners released before Nigeria could be readmitted to the Commonwealth.

After two days of talks in London, the ministers issued a statement expressing "concern" that political detainees. including Chief Moshood Abiola, had not been released and that detention without trial was still taking place in Nigeria. It also noted that local elections had been delayed by three months beyond

their scheduled date.

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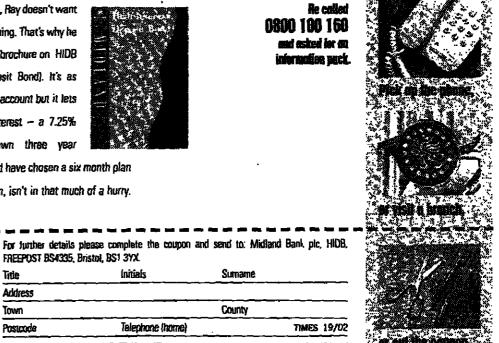
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The Listening Bank

High street accentiles

The internationally acclaimed British designers Clements Riberto have linked up with Dorothy Perkins. Grace Bradberry reports



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Suedette jacket and chinos, £95. Yellow chiffon shirt, £50

designer at Givenchy. Huswhat British fashsein Chalayan and Antonio ion designers did Berardi are small-scale but best. For a while solvent. But internationally, it they would blaze like meteors, is a husband and wife team producing bold but unwearcalled Clements Ribeiro who able clothes, before fizzling out are making the biggest waves. Suzanne Clements, 28, (British, from Epsom, Surrey) and Inacio Ribeiro. 35. (from the Now a new generation of designers has emerged, and they have not gone bust, nor do they look like doing so. Brazilian city of Bel Horizonte) met at St Martin's, gradu-ating in 1991. They set up their own label in 1993, but it Alexander McQueen's own label is assured now he is chief

> buyers.` apart' Go to New York and you'll find them in most of the major department stores. But in Britain, their clothes are available in only about a dozen stores, notably Liberty, their first stockist.

was their 1996

spring collection,

eaturing cashmere

knits in rainbow

stripes, that caught

the attention of

Nevertheless, their international success, plus a twoseason deal with the highstreet chain Dorothy Perkins, have allowed them to move from their cramped studio into a three-storey building on South Molton Street.

Three weeks before London Fashion Week, they are les-tooning the flat roof with Chinese lanterns, so that they champagne for the photogra-Clements Ribeiro will appear to be at the epicentre of hip.

swinging London. The reality is that they are going to bed at 3am, and starting again at nine. "British designers have changed," says ers who were big in

the Eighties par-tied every night. Nobody does that had a bad any more." It is only recently reputation. that Clements Ribeiro have even for things wanted to be part of "the London thing", as Suzanne refers to it. "When

we started we didn't want to be pigeon-holed be-cause London had such a had reputation for late delivery

and things falling apart."

Their style was originally a reaction to what was happening in 1993. "Everyone was deeply into this grunge, deconstructivist thing. We went for fine finishing and couture fabrics. We also worked with colour when everything else was in grey and black."

At first they were out on a limb, but fashion followed them. Suzanne characterises their style as "clumsy cou-

Having built up such a

strong identity, it was a brave move to link up with Dorothy Perkins. Although they knew it would provide a cash injection, they also feared that it would downgrade the label.

The first "Clements Ribeiro

for Dorothy Perkins' collection included striped A-line skirts and embroidered camisole tops. Everything went with everything else.

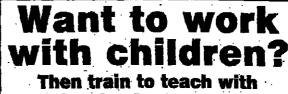
Above all, the collection transferred their trademark eccentricity and odd colour-ways to the high street. The spring/summer collection. shown here, is more commercial in one respect, however the fabrics are more "up-market". "In the first collection we used polyester to be a bit we used polyester to be a on ironic," says Suzanne. "We realised that playing with good taste, bad taste is stitling fashion people understand but other people don't."

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Niles? I'd avoid him

American television sitcom has toppled Hollywood as the place actors want to be seen. Frasier's David Hyde Pierce explains why. Interview by Joe Joseph

howbiz stardom isn't vision sit-com rather than in all Oscar night bashes movies? Pierce thinks it could in Bel Air and getting invited to Fergie's children's birthday parties. There

For David Hyde Pierce who, for the second year running, has just won an American Comedy Award for his role as Niles. Dr Frasier Crane's snooty brother in the sitcom Frasier — the downside is having to spend most of a weekend stay in London inside a hotel room filming promo links for Channel 4.

Having 20 cameramen, make-up girls, sound recordists, directors and publicity people hang on your every whim while you record twosecond promos that range from "Watch Channel 4" all the way to "This is Channel 4" is not merely the price of so-so television fame. It is the price of a startling new brand of fame that has become the special preserve of American

TV sitcom stars. It is one thing to wonder how a pompous, churlish Seattle psychiatrist like Niles got to be one of the best-

loved comedy characters in America: I mean, weren't we told that American audiences like their TV heroes to be appealing and in control, and that's why our testy, putupon Victor Meldrew was made more cuddly when One Foot In The Grave was unpicked and retai-

lored for Bill Cosby? Pierce, est. It's much more separated who in addition to his two American Comedy Awards has won an Emmy, a Golden Globe and a Screen Actors Guild Award for the role, hands the credit to a script which has created three-dimensional characters, "selfish and petty in some ways, but also generous and good heart-ed in other ways, which is like most human beings".

OK, OK, but how did American TV sitcom topple Hollywood as the place where top. actors now ache to be seen? Because while we weren't

looking, it has. Why else are stars such as Julia Roberts, Elliott Gould, Tom Selleck and Danny DeVito - the kind of stars who spent years crawling out of the Mogadon miasma of afternoon TV soap, actors who would until recently have sacked their agent if he had suggested doing a cameo on a television sitcom - all now queueing up to appear on Friends, and Larry Sanders and Frasier? How come the stars of Seinfeld are now demanding more cash per episode than many wellknown Hollywood stars earn per film? Why is Michael J. Fox now starring in a tele-

Water St. Co.

Part .

be because TV has become more legitimate. In Frasier, in the radio station, we have all these call-ins. People call in to Frasier for help, and the people they get to do the voices of the call-ins are an amazing array of celebrities. We've had Timothy Leary and Patri Hearst and Henry Mancini, Jodie Foster, the playwright Wendy Wasserstein, a broad spectrum of people.

Yes, but why do they all suddenly want to? "Hopefully, it's a testament to the quality of the show, that people are not embarrassed to be associated with it. But also I think that as more and more TV people have become movie stars people such as Tom Hanks, Bruce Willis - that it's starting to be an easier move back and forth between the media."

Pierce never planned to be on TV at all. An East Coast boy. Yale-educated, he had turned his back on a musical career ("I found out that I didn't have the interest to work the hours, and nor did I have

the talent to pursue any sort of concert 'I'd love to career"). He was happy doing reperbe a film tory theatre, places where his name star, but I was in lights in 20watt bulbs, if at all. A TV star? Just don't see never crossed his mind. that really "Not ever! I

thought I would be happening' going nowhere near television. I just had no interover there than it is over here. People don't tend to go as

frequently back and forth from one to the other. I was very happy. I was in New York doing theatre and I loved it. Even now I still prefer doing stuff in front of a live audience, which is what we have on the "The episodes are written

and directed and performed for the audience that is there, like a stage play. Some of the best laughs that you can get are the ones when you just stand there, because they've given you a wonderful line to laughs wash over you. That's a great pleasure."

He describes Niles as "intelligent, well-dressed and badly married ... Niles's wife, Maris, is cold yet distant, but Niles loves her ... probably because she reminds him of his mother. His relationship with Frasier is a mix of sibling rivalry, condescension, passive aggression and brotherly

So do Pierce and Niles have anything in common? "Oh, probably more than I

care to admit." Pierce is certainly more relaxed than Niles, and al-

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though his diction is precise, it doesn't have that clenched-buttock angst that Niles has mastered. What about any natural

conceptions.

affinity? No. I think he's someone

who, if I had the choice, I would spend as little time with

But Pierce adores the role and adores his fellow cast members. He rates Kelsey Grammer - Frasier Crane as "the best. Not only because he's so talented, but also he is the most generous actor. None of us would have the success in the show that we have if he

didn't allow us to. "There are plenty of stars who don't want anyone else to shine. He's the opposite of that. He feels, like, he looks better, the better the people are around him. And we love working together."

But where does Pierce go from here? Frasier could be on air for another three years or so. Maybe longer. He has done low-key, walk-on parts in

movies - The Fisher King, Crossing Delancey, Sleepless in Seattle, Wolf, he played John Dean in Öliver Stone's Nixon — and he is aware that he is being slightly strait-jacketed by Niles Crane.

"It's a little scary. And I wouldn't even say I'm seen as an American comedy star. I'd say I'm seen as Niles, the character on the show, and that's very scary." Which is into people? why he is fishing around for a film role that will snap his fans out of their prejudices and pre-

redictably for an industry famed for its skill at thinking creatively, so many of the film scripts that plop through Pierce's letterbox in Los Angeles "are so similar to Niles that I turn them down out of hand. The rest? So far I

still haven't found anything I want to do film-wise". Theatre still owns his heart -- Pierce's first stop in London was Wyndham's, to see Albert

Finney and Tom Courtenay in Art — "but in trying to combat the whole people-seeing-youas-a-certain-character problem, just the mass exposure of a film makes it seem more the right thing to do at this point".

So maybe something directed by Tarantino? Tell us David, do you see yourself in a sharp black suit, looking mean and pumping bullets

Yeah. but that's just in my private life. I'd love to be a film star, but I don't see that really happening, except on a very small scale. I keep turning down all those Sylvester Stallone roles,"

Meanwhile, he is called away again to pucker his lips for the camera in the now oven-hot Savoy bedroom and to swoon: "I love Channel 4." The long march to stardom is made up of thousands of such small, unglamorous steps. Only nowadays, it's the sort of TV work that Julia Roberts and Jodie Foster might well

Who wins in the adoption debate?

wo questions are being asked this same issue: who is a fit parent and who is a fit child? I suspect many of the people who argue against abortion are those, too, who applaud the Government's recent initiative to remove, in the words of Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, "fashionable theories" from the adoption procedure.

Both views are tenable independently: neither necessarily supports the other. would go further: those who are opposed to abortion are concerned with the rights and the welfare of the prospective child; and yet the voices raised against what are perceived to be the current rules dominating adoption are motivated overridingly by the desires of the putative parents.

I don't disparage or question those desires: the psychological and emotional need for children is not to be underplayed. But rather than applauding the Government's sensitiv-

ity towards those who have the need but not the ability to bear children of their own, I am appalled by its cruel

I don't argue with its central premise: as the Times leader pronounced yesterday, adoption is no place for political correctness". But for Mr Dorrell to suggest that childless couples are being prevented from adopting just because their views and social situation are not considered right-on enough by bearded and sandalled social workers is just phooey. The reason so many people who want to adopt can't is because there aren't enough children.

Well, that's not entirely the case: there aren't enough babies. Those who have gone beyond the stage of

being cuddlesome bundles can be left to languish in institutions for years. There's no market for them. I am not being unsympa-thetic: I can see why a childless couple would prefer to adopt a newborn rather than an angry, institutionalised five-year-old.

A woman's overpoweringly physical need to hold a baby, her baby, in her arms is an essential driving force in life. But it is important when people write or speak about childless couples being rejected as appropriare parents that they should consider another truth. Many would be adoptive parents are, in effect, rejecting those they consider to be inappropriate children.

I'm not saying there aren't idiocies commit-ted by social workers or local authorities. I remember a case not so long ago when a Chinese baby, who had been left in one of those horrific "dying rooms" because she was a girl, was not allowed to be adopted by an English couple because it was felt she would not then learn about the "richness of her own

Why should it be considered wrong to be concerned with matters of race, of blood? Sir-Stephen Brown was quite right to accuse Alan

and Deborah Fowler of "appalling irresponsi-bility" in pretending they didn't know the grandfather of the orphaned Bosnian girl they had adopted was trying to locate her in order to bring her up himself. I think he was right, too, not to inflict enormous emotional upheaval on the child by forcing the Fowlers to send her back to her grandfather, but I hate to think how she might react to the story of her early life in later years.

It is chauvinism of the worst kind to think that just because a baby is "foreign" it doesn't deserve the same consideration as British babies up for adoption. And as for matters of race: we may sneer at the idea of a white couple being refused a black baby for adoption (and I agree the refusal shouldn't be automatic), but one can scarcely imagine the outrage that would follow a white baby being adopted by a black couple. Racism is a factor here, and we should investigate it both ways around, not pretend it is all a PC plot. Perhaps it is the case that

social workers sometimes give PC reasons for turning down prospective adoptive parents because they erroneously feel that citing race or age may sound more acceptable, more intellectually sound, when the real rea-sons are based on that vague but crucial thing called instinct, and those very "commonsense values" that Mr Dorrell commends.

As was reported in yesterday's paper, when Jim and Roma Lawrence were rejected as inappropriate people to adopt a child, much was made of the reason given that they were not sensitive enough to issues of race and yet it now transpires that really it was because they were considered too blinkered in their approach,

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too intransigent — in other words, not sensitive enough to the needs of a

Of course there are many natural parents who are insensitive to the needs of their children. Parents maltreat, beat and even kill their children. Michael Jackson paid a woman to bear his child and took it away from her a week after birth. It all makes my blood run cold. How much worse must it seem to someone who desperately wants but can't have children. But it is important to remember that the injustice, the cruelty, is nature's, not the social worker's. Short of picking up and running with an

old suggestion, made a few party conferences ago, which was that feckless single mothers could be made to give up their babies to nice middle-class people with nice Laura Ashleyed nurseries, one fact remains. The Government's tinkering with adoption procedure good though it sounds to a disenchanted middle class on the eve of an election - isn't going to increase the number of babies up for adoption, so obviously it can do nothing to decrease the number of disappointed adoptive parents. To suggest otherwise is emotionally exploitative electioneering at its worst.

Quentin Crisp and the gay question

Nigella Lawson

AS FOR who is fit to be a child: just after James Watson, the discoverer of DNA, expresses the view that if a woman could find out that the foetus she was carrying were gay she should be able to abort it, out comes Quentin Crisp in favour. Often, he said, in support of Watson's

suggestion, he wished he had not been born. For some reason his un-

happiness is seen as corroboration that homosexuals are better off not existing in the first place. He's gay, he says it's all right, so it's OK for us to do so, too, is the implication. In another context, the

"self-hating Jew" is a wellbut that hardly justifies Auschwitz. Anyone but a committed anti-Semite might think that morbid self-deprecation might itself emanate from such lethal hostility, rather than the other way

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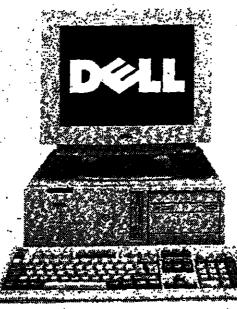
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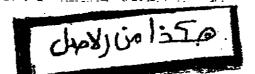
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Caught between two courts

Michael Zander supports

moves to restrict trial by jury

ny proposal to restrict the right to jury trial in-Levitably attracts fierce controversy. In 1993, furious opposition met a recommendation by the Runciman Royal Commission on Criminal Justice. We on the commission argued that in cases which can be tried either by magistrates or in the Crown Court by a jury ("either-way offences"), the defendant should lose the absolute right to have a jury.

The severe criticism of the proposal seemed to rule out its implementation. Particularly significant was the strong opposition of Lord Taylor of Gosforth, then the Lord Chief

So it is rather surprising that the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, has now decided that if returned to of-fice he would introduce legislation to implement the recommendation. On this, in contrast to some of his previous proposals, I would sup-

The proposal does not affect trial by jury itself. The princi-ple at stake is who should decide where the case is tried defendant or court? For minor offences, trial has to be in the magistrates' court; for the most serious it has to be in

the Crown Court. There is no choice. But in the intermediate category, which includes theft cases, the defendant has had the right to insist on the Crown

About 80 per cent of defendants in these cases opt for

trial by magistrates. Of the rest, about two-thirds are sent for trial in the Crown Court by the magistrates and the other third elect for trial in the Crown Court. It is this last group (about 23,000 annually), who would be affected by the

The defendant's right to sometimes said, to Magna Carta, but to the mid 19th century, when Parliament de-cided that some offences could be tried either in the magistrates' court or in the much slower and more costly higher court with a jury.

In Scotland, this decision is taken by the prosecution. The royal commission proposed that if prosecution and defence cannot agree on the matter, the decision should be made by the magistrates in the light of statutory guidelines.

The royal commission's motive was neither to save money nor to speed up cases (though it probably would do both). We thought that these decisions should in principle be made by the system. It is as wrong to leave to the defendant the choice of court as it would be to leave to him the

choice of judge. Defendants often choose jury trial because the acquittal rate of juries is higher than that of magistrates. In the royal commission's view, however, this is no more a valid reason for preserving the right than would be a defendant's wish to choose the Crown Court as a delaying tactic.

The point of principle is buttressed by powerful practical considerations. One is that as many as three-quarters of

those who ask for trial by jury for either-way offences do not ever see a jury, because they decide at the last moment to plead guilty. Defendants and their lawyers should of course take their decisions in what seems to be the defendant's best interests. But large numbers of last-minute guilty pleas (known as "cracked trials") do create problems. They add, for instance, to prison overcrowding. Defendants who wait for Crown Court trial in prison and are then given a non-custodial penalty after plead-ing guilty have been in custody much longer than if they had been dealt with in a magistrates' court. And the very fact of a case being listed as a not guilty plea has the effect of increasing delays for all

Crown Court cases. Preparing for a contested trial that does not take place means wasting time and money. The waste of money mainly concerns the taxpayer. The waste of time affects not only lawyers but police offi-cers, doctors and other experts, as well as ordinary citizens who come to court to be witnesses, only to find there

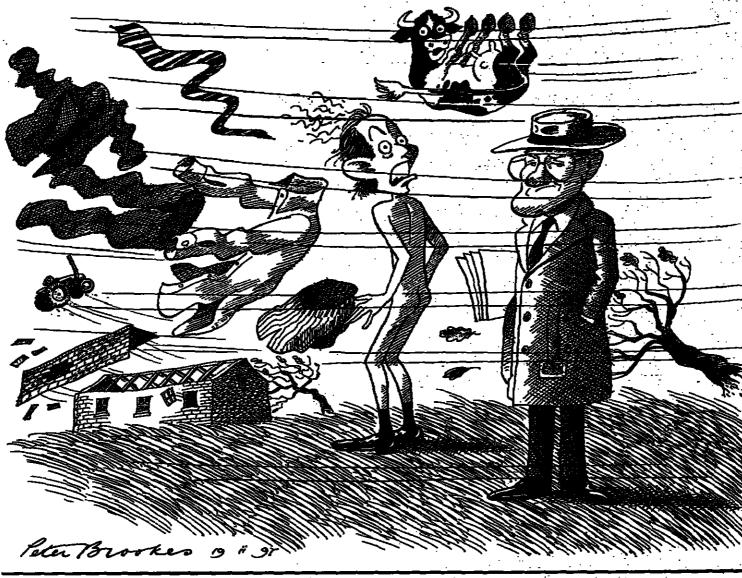
Defendants suffer too.
Those charged with eitherway offences are three times more This should likely to receive a custodial sentence not be a in the Crown Court than in a magismatter of trates' court. Likewise, custodial sen-

defendant's tences from the choice Crown Court are about two-and-ahalf times as long as those in similar cases dealt with by magistrates. Of course it will still be vital

that the defendant whose case deserves trial by jury goes to a Crown Court. In such a case the prosecution would usually agree, but if the prosecutor were to be difficult, the magistrates would take the decision. guided by considerations menlegislation. ne consideration, the

royal commission suggested, should be the defendant's reputation, since jury trial is especially appropriate for cases involving potential loss of good reputation. Lord Taylor has suggested that this is unfair to the person with a criminal record. But is it? Other things being equal, a defendant with a prior record has less good reputation to lose than a defendant with none. That does not mean he should automatically be denied trial by jury for an eitherway offence. It simply means that the magistrates should take his criminal record into account, together with all other relevant considerations, such as the date of the previous conviction, the gravity of the current accusation and its likely impact on his reputation

Any proposed change in the rights of the accused always requires the most anxious consideration. I believe that in this case what the Government proposes is sensible and fair. Michael Zander, Professor of Law at the London School of Economics, was a member of Lord Runciman's Royal Commission.



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The new escalation

The following statements can-not both be true. Nato enlargement is a goal worth every measure of our common effort . . . The new Nato can vanquish old hatreds, promote integration, create a secure environment for prosperity and deter violence in the region where two world wars and the cold war began." The speaker is Madeleine Albright, American Secretary of State. She is supported by the

British Government The second statement reads: "Nato enlargement would be the most fateful error of American policy in the entire post-Cold-War era . . . It will inflame nationalistic, anti-Western and militaristic tendencies in Russian opinion, have an adverse side-effect on the development of Russian democracy and restore the atmo-sphere of Cold War to East-West relations." This speaker is George Kennan, veteran diplomat and Kremlinologist. He is supported by many letters to The Times.

These people should sort out their

difference, and soon. One of them is wrong, and if it is Madeleine Albright we are in trouble. In July, the Nato council proposes to admit at least three new members, probably Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. Other applicants include the Baltic states, Romania, Slovenia and Bulgaria. Moscow is furious at any shift eastwards of the limit of Nato's Article 5 guarantee. This pledges that an attack on any member state is an attack on all — most important, on America. Enlargement will expand that guaranteed nuclear umbrella hundreds of miles closer to Moscow. Some say, the Cold War is over so why should Russia worry. But to Russia, if the Cold War is over, why is Nato worrying? Nato enlargement is the West's equivalent of Russian missiles in Cuba. The proposal has enraged Russia's liberals and reactionaries alike. Anatoly Chubais, the sensible Kremlin Chief of Staff, agrees with Mr Kennan that it is "one

of the worst ideas advanced by the West" since the Cold War. To Mikhail Gorbachev it is "hawkish, conservative and aggressive. To President Yeltsin it is a disaster he could well do without. To his possible replacement. Alexander Lebed, it is a cloud that may have a silver lining. Western envoys and generals have warned against so gratuitously rubbing Moscow's nose in the dirt of Cold War defeat.

Madeleine Albright purrs that

America's pet plan to expand Nato means taking unnecessary risks

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Russia is overreacting. Nato enlargement will reward the new European democracies with membership of a looser family than the EU, which will not at present accept them. Nato offers American-sponsored security. "Freedom's boundaries", she says, quoting her boss, "should be defined by new behaviour not old history."

Nor should Russia fear encirclement, she says. Nato will not station nuclear or even conventional forces on Polish, Czech or Hungarian soil. Mr Clinton has offered Russia a Partnership for Peace. Russia can join in Nato planning. Nato training, Nato consultation, Nato

out-of-area operations, as in Bosnia. She pats the Russian bear on the head as its sweats through another turbulent night,

and reassuringly says she means no Like hell. There is

a side-effect to Madeleine Albright's placebo. Those who disagree with her, she says, are stuck in the past, "at the line where the Red Army halted in spring 1945". She recalls a different past, the past of appeasement. She is Czech by origin, and remembers not 1945 but 1938. Liberals have always looked at menacing regimes and pleaded that domestic liberalism be given a chance. She will have no

For her, Russia cannot be allowed to dictate the terms of any new European settlement. If Russia is a mess. Russia is always a mess. If Russia is afraid of military revanchism, that is Russia's problem. If Russia is scared of encirclement, too bad. Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic are scared of Russia, and with better reason. The more unstable Russia is, the more worried they are entitled to be. It is their fears that enlargement must address. That is what Washington's Polish, Czech and Hungarian lobbies are demanding. Mr Clinton saw no reason to refuse them in his

election campaign. They had votes.
This is at least Realpolitik. The central European states do not want Nato membership for the sake of a flag on the conference table. Nato is

not a Rotary Club. It is a security alliance. Enlargement says clearly that Russia is still dangerous, unstable and not to be trusted. Russia has just lost a war and merits no considera-tion. To Madeleine Albright, ap-peasement has a nice harmony, but a terrible coda. Europe cannot be per-

mitted to make that mistake again. The question is which mistake? Ask Britain's politicians or diplomats about Nato enlargement and they give a despairing shrug. It is like global warming or drug cartels or even EU enlargement. It keeps the conferences busy, the jets flying and the hotels full. Brit-

ish soldiers and diplomats privately admit that enlarge ment may be wrong at just this moment in Russian history. Even wiser heads in central Europe agree. But July is pressing. Made-

leine Albright may not be clever, but she speaks for the most powerful nation in Nato. Europe has other problems and is not inclined to argue.

n July, Britain will sign a guarantee that I believe it does not mean to honour -- covering precisely the region where it dishonoured one 60 years ago. That treaty commits Britain and America to devote their armies and nuclear arsenals to defend Poles, Czechs and Hungarians in a possible border dispute with Russian armies if the latter were to advance across Belarus or Ukraine. That is what Nato's Article 5 means. Unless troops are sent in now - and we pledge that this will not happen - then nuclear deterrence will have to suffice. Any Russian threat would come from a presum-ably reckless yet still well-armed regime in Moscow. Extending the full nuclear shield across Polish, Czech and Hungarian border towns would be hugely expensive. Worse, it would be hard to convince Russian generals that American and British citizens would put their own cities at risk.

This is the escalation that we are

returning to by enlarging Nato. It is a

classic of international fidgeting, of

foreign and defence ministers taking the line of least resistance, without looking where that line leads. The sole purpose of altering Europe's sec-urity balance should be to increase Europe's security. The enlargement of Nato appears to offer three (and possibly five) nations a near meaningless guarantee, in such a way as seriously to endanger their security from the East. It encourages them to be less cautious in relations with Russia, and encourages Russia to be more paranoid in its relations with them. Madeleine Albright pleads with Europe's sceptics to stop looking at enlargement as a zero-sum game". But she offers a minus-sum game. Britain, needless to say, has kowtowed.

These are huge stakes. Those who believe Madeleine Albright is right assume that Russia is bluffing. Moscow will get used to an enlarged Nato. Generals and bureaucrats on both sides will spend time and money ach other mat nothii changed. They will say that enlarging Nato is about sustaining America? commitment to all of Europe, Central and Eastern as well as Western. The Partnership for Peace charter will keep Russia happy.

But if Madeleine Albright is wrong and Mr Kennan is right, Mr Clinton's mistake, and Britain's, is awesome. Russian democracy is sorely vulnerable to a military or right-wing coup, Russia's élite has always feared encirclement. Independence for the Balts, Belorussians and Ukrainians may prove shortlived if Moscow gets too nervous. Already there is pressure to divert Russian resources into rebuilding its army and weapons base. Russian generals, reacting to enlargement, last month demanded that Mr Yeltsin retarget their missiles at Nato capitals. Who began all this?

Nato, fidgeting. Needless to say, this will not feature in the British general election. Not since 1964 has a party (the Conservatives) decided to fight a contest primarily on foreign policy. There are no votes in collective security. When Britain's possible next prime minister. Tony Blair, was recently asked about Nato enlargement, he smiled and assumed it was "a good thing". It was clear he had not really thought about the matter.

If Mr Kennan is right, Mr Blair
might soon be thinking about nothing else. Mr Kennan is 92 and has seen Russia in all its moods. Sometimes old men know best.

Stand up for British culture

Philip Delves Broughton offers

counselling

The British Council, like the United Nations, is an organis-

ation in which small heroic acts are perpenually overshadowed by large crass ones. For every African teenager who learns English from a khaki-trunked British Council teach-er, there is a fuss over expensive office space and overpaid administrators.

Just when the Foreign Office examines its contribution to the British Council budget, up popped the story of the council's generosity in 1976, when it gave £1,000 to a man calling himself Genesis P. Orridge He took an exhibition round America of pictures of bloodstained women's clothing and his common law wife Cozey Fanny Tutti in collar-loosening

Now the council has landed itself in another Orridge mess — for the chattering rather than slavering classes this time — with the proposal to close down lending libraries across Western Europe and South-East Asia and replace them with computerised

"information centres",
The closure of the lending library
in Athens with its Byron and Brooke associations is the focus for those opposing the decision. A worthy, but awfully familiar Greek chorus of concerned parties has spoken, from John Mortimer (the Tiresias of literary institutions) to Fay Weldon (the Cassandra). Patrick Leigh-Fermor. the travel writer and deputy director of the British Council in Athens after the Second World War, has been roused from his Peloponnesian home

roused from his Peloponnesian home to denounce a "creeping philistinism manifesting itself all over the place". An organisation of Concerned English Speakers of Athens, who sound like the sorts endlessly snapping the handles off bone china teacups in frustration at the reptile Modernity, is agitating for a Commonwealth Library to house the British Council's 11.000 books. It seems Council's 11,000 books. It seems inevitable, however, that this week the largest collection of English books in Greece will be handed to the Greek Government — an act which even a group of Greek academics has said would have "a deplorable effect on the prospects for Greek students studying in English".

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The council puts forward all kinds of explanations for its proposal, most of them riddled with managementspeak. It says that its main task is to decision makers and promoting British trade, culture and education. Dull old lending libraries, it argues, are no

longer central to this.

In Europe and boom economies such as Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia, there is, it says, a constant need for information about Britain. with government reports and legal decisions required instantly. No time or money is left for curious English

language students to browse through The Thirty-Nine Steps or King Lear. In truth, the British Council and the Foreign Office are engaged in a cheap, undignified cultural with-drawal. The Foreign Office, which funds just under a third of the British Council's £430 million annual budget, will be reducing its contribution by £7 million over the next three years. Each major lending library costs around £200,000 a year. All the talk of moving with the times is a cover for cost-cutting.

hat is worse, the British Council has fallen for the futurists fallacy. It believes that by computerising and becoming a better servant of business, it is making itself more "relevant". But anyone can provide computerised information and a stack of CD-Roms. With a commercial incentive, hundreds of companies could make the efforts of the British Council look prehistoric. Yet none would replace the lending libraries, with their value that can never be represented on a balance sheet. With its lust for relevance, the British Council could well end up redundant.

In Germany, the only section of the lending library that has been kept open is contemporary British fiction.

The same is true in Hong Kong, where the rest of the library has been given to the British Council in Hanoi. It is a weedy capitulation at a time when it is the duty of any representative of British culture that can dig in to do so. In 1989, the British Council gave

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£70,000 to fund a tour of the Middle East by a rock band from Newcastle with the oddly Edwardian name Hurrah! The aim was to make Britain appealing to Middle Eastern youth via pop music. The audiences came in immaculate dress to the concerts and looked on in bemusement at the scruffy musicians. It was not what they wanted or expected from the British Council, Furthermore, in an era when record companies promote Western artistes all over the world, it was a superfluous gesture. The British Council was trying to be Brian Epstein, and it failed. Now it is trying to be Microsoft and Reviters, rather than a guardian and promoter of the best of British culture.

At its best, the British Council is a Britain's finest cultural ambassador yet it now seems resigned to being a keyboard-happy embarrassment. By slashing away at its lending libraries. it is serving neither its nation nor the P·H·S | culture that it is bound by Royal | Charter to promote.

Late calls

AS JOHN MAJOR eases himself into the last straight before the election, his minders are keeping him hidden from the Conservative parliamentary candidates clamouring for attention.

Tory candidates and MPs are

anxious to have their photographs taken with the Prime Minister so as to include them in their electioneering brochures. But Conservative Central Office, under the watchful eye of the brutish chairman, Brian Mawhinney, is refusing to countenance the idea.

There are no more slots, it can't be done," runs the stock response from the Central Office wallahs who organise photoshoots. Those who have missed their pre-election snapshot are dismayed: "I know he is supposed to be our secret weapon. But is he such a secret he has to be kept from public view?" protested one former minister yesterday.

Most of the disappointed MPs have opted for a photograph instead of their performances in the Commons chamber during Prime Minister's Question Time. "It makes us look rather important." added the former minister.

photo-opportunities in the past," says Central Office. They should not have left it so late."

Drum role

THE PIPES AND DRUMS of Britain's only private army will soon be drowning out the wildebeest of the African veld. The Atholi Highlanders, guardsmen of the Duke of Atholl's home, Blair Castle, are holking up their kilts and heading off in May to march for the new duke at his home in the Northern Province, formerly Northern

It will be the first time that the Highlanders, who have never seen action, have blown African dust through their bagpipes. "John Murray, the late duke's successor, is South African, and he now has the right to the private army," says Captain Andrew Gordon, their adjutant. "We're only visiting. though. We'll not be away from Blair Castle for long."

• The excitement of performing live appears to be irresistible to Noel Gallagher, the Oasis song-There have been numerous writer. Only last year, after an

्राच्या राज्यको राज्यको द्वार १,८६ १,८५८ । अञ्चलकाको सम्याद्याचारा राज्यका । अञ्चलका स्थार कार्यका कार्यका राज्यका स्थार



abortive tour of America, Noel and his group declared they would never play live again. But on Monday he turned up, heavily dis-guised in a floppy hat, to play backing guitar for another Manchester band, Ocean Colour Scene, at the Albert Hall. "He slunk on, played a few riffs, and slunk off again,"

Double dished

MIDDLESBOROUGH Football Club's temperamental Brazilian player - known simply as Emer-son - has a history of absconding to Rio to appease his homesick wife and escape the grim British winter. Now he faces another, equally British, problem. Carping neighbours. They reported him to the council for installing a large satellite

dish so that his wife, who has suffered from depression, could watch both Portuguese television and Sky. They pointed out that the dish's diameter exceeded the permissible 90cm. So he bought two smaller dishes.

The neighbours quickly informed him of local regulations stipulating just one dish per household, and Emerson is now rueing yet further his arrival in Little England.

Hall of fuss

SANITY has disappeared from Exeter, where a bizarre light has



artefacts, from ceremonial headdresses to swords and fancy Most of the stuff was either bought or given rather than pil-laged. Nonetheless, Grant wants the lot returned to Africa. The local Labour candidate disagrees, and Rogers, who claims to speak up for family values, has taken advantage of the issue to call Nigeria "a corrupt country, riddled with so-cialism and Aids".

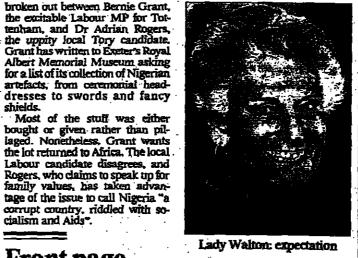
Front page THREE-QUARTERS of a century after its composition, Sir William Walton's Toccata for Violin and Piano is to have its first full performance next month. Composed in 1922, it languished in Walton's drawer at his home in Italy until his death in 1983, when his widow,

how, the first page of the score then went missing.
On the only recording of the work, made a couple of years ago,

the beginning of the work is still

Susana, sent it to his publisher,

Oxford University Press. Some-



missing. Paul Barritt, the violinist who will be performing it at the Oldham Festival, badgered OUP for a full score.

On January 9, the press sent him a letter saying the first page had been lost for good. The very next day, however, it sent another letter saying the page had been found. Lady Walton, an Argentinian, will be in Oldham, Walton's home town, for the performance. According to Barritt, "she is



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Section 1997

New Contract

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THE TIMES

STARR IN HIS EYES

Starr may head for the beach: Clinton cannot

On Monday, Americans celebrated Presidents Day. By late evening, Bill Clinton may have thought it was his birthday rather than those of Washington and Lincoln. Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater independent counsel who has stalked the First Couple for three years, announced that he would shortly resign. The special prosecutor has accepted the enticing post of dean of the law school at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California. He will take up his duties in August.

Although he stressed that his investigation was "active and ongoing", and that observers should "read nothing into this", the implications of Mr Starr's decision seem clear. It is difficult to believe that a man of his authority would abandon his position at this point if he intended to press charges against either the President or the First Lady. While other aspects of his remit, notably the misuse of FBI files by White House officials early in the Clinton tenure, may yet prove politically embarrassing. criminal charges concerning Whitewater itself seem unlikely.

Nothing was said, but the relief surrounding the Administration was evident. Unnamed officials suggested that the shadow of scandal which has long fallen over the Clintons might finally have lifted. Such optimism is misplaced. For as one set of ethical questions shows signs of disappearing, another looms on the horizon. Although the location and circumstances are different, the deluge of details emerging about the Democratic Party's fundraising practices since 1995 have much in common with the Arkansas land deals. They both reflect on the company that Mr Clinton has chosen to keep.

The revelations about the lengths to which he was prepared to go to win campaign contributions get more outrageous by the week. In October it transpired that Indonesian businessmen had contributed large sums of money to the Democratic National Committee (DNC) using American residents as the attentions of another special prosecutor.

conduits. That was transparently against the spirit of the law, but arguably not the letter. After that, it became clear that John Huang, then deputy assistant Commerce Secretary, used his "free time" during official visits in Asia to chase donations for the DNC.

However, such dubious activities extended much further. Under Mr Clinton, wealthy benefactors were offered unusual access to key office-holders, including those responsible for regulating their corporate affairs. Even overnight accommodation at the White House was available. The President found time to host coffee mornings for those who might release riches in his paety's direction. One of his guests was an arms merchant for the People's Republic of China. The trail now leads towards Mexico's drug barons. Mr Clinton has certainly lived up to his promise to be a free trade President.

These sordid transactions have a strong echo of Nixon-era misdoings. The Administration then was accused of swapping political favours for private funds. Even if no such bargain occurred at any gathering attended by the President, the impression of potential impropriety is extremely powerful. Unlike the Whitewater events, which played themselves out in Little Rock some years before Mr Clinton became a presidential contender, these fresh scandals happened in the American capital, only months ago.

So far, Janet Reno, the US Attorney-General, has resisted calls to appoint a new independent counsel to investigate the whole affair. The signs are, though, that her opinion may be changing. Such a move may occur within weeks. It is difficult to see how she can avoid it. The possibility that American policy at home and abroad might have been for hire is infinitely more important than property speculation in northwest Arkansas. Mr Clinton should enjoy his respite. Mr Starr may be headed for the beach, but Mr Clinton may soon be inviting

ONE NATION

Asian entrepreneurs should move from home to House

The real Asian tigers are on our doorsteps. The spirit of enterprise that has transformed the nations of the Pacific Rim is now taking over the British high street. A list of Britain's 100 richest Asians in the journal Eastern Eye reveals the extent to which ethnic diversity has underpinned economic growth. The creation of a multicultural society has not. however, been painless.

The difficulties were poignantly underday by the pr yet dignified figure of Stephen Lawrence's mother at the London launch of the European Year Against Racism. The debate provoked by the failure to bring his murderers to justice has forced an agonised examination of how society deals with racial tensions — but the creation of One Nation depends just as much on celebrating achievement as acknowledging difficulties. The recognition of how much Britain now owes to its new entrepreneurs can play a part in building tolerance and guaranteeing esteem for all minorities.

The list might have been designed to confound prejudice. Although many of the millionaires have roots in those sectors of the economy where the Asian presence is traditionally strong, such as fashion and retail, the impression overall is of diversity. Internet advertising tycoons, metal exchange dealers and independent television entrepreneurs all jostle for prominence in the ranks of those who might now be considered, with a nod to Hyderabad rather than Hollywood, the new moguls.

It is noticeable that many of the businesses listed are family affairs. Although generalisation can be an easy refuge for the casual racist it would be perverse not to acknowled-

ge the closeness of most Asian families in Britain. The combination of tradition, faith and communal identity has meant that Asian families have shown greater resilience and solidarity than their neighbours'. The cultivation of older domestic virtues has helped newer entrepreneurial instincts to

A commitment to the hearth has not, however, held Asian women back. Two of the most impressive buccaneers in the list are female. Meena Pathak and Perween Warsir may have started in the kitchen but they now hold their own in boardrooms. Family firms may grow out of a simple concern, like the Pathaks' spice business, but many of the older Asian concerns have responded to changing economic circumstances by diversifying. Indeed, the aristocrats of the Asian business community like the Hinduja dynasty can no more be pigeonholed in one sector of the economy than could Lord Hanson or Sir James Goldsmith. Yet, even as they grow, the nature of the Hindujas' business remains firmly family.

The Prime Minister has gone out of his way to draw attention to the contribution of ethnic minorities to Britain's revival. Mr Major's own loathing of prejudice is not in doubt, but it is a matter for regret that no party in Parliament has succeeded in finding more than a handful of candidates from racial minorities for winnable seats. Tokenism. quotas and the promotion of the mediocre would all be counter-productive. But given the wealth of Asian talent creating wealth for Britain there seems to be no shortage of potential parliamentarians. The more visible a role the nation's ethnic minorities play in shaping the future, the better for Britain.

TEST OF CHARACTER

Those who enjoy their cricket win: and vice versa

One Test victory does not make a winter siumph. But it certainly throws a ray of stinshine onto the cricket pitch of the mind, and revises hasty verdicts in the greatest game of skill and chance. If England had come straight home after losing all three one-day internationals on the Zimbabwe leg of this tour, they would have been met with rotten tomatoes at Heathrow and humiliating headlines. Atherton would have been lucky to have kept his job as captain.

Now, according to the scorebook, England were foiled of a clean sweep in this winter's five Tests only by rain, a single run and a last-wicket stand by the worst international batsman in the world. Such ifs are the charm of cricket. So yesterday's dawn victory in England kept radios on all night for its swings and roundabouts. Only once before had an England team scored more than 300 to win a Test. Atherton added 118 to his 94 not out, when he became only the seventh England player to carry his bat. Without him, England would have lost. So, after a miserable start, the captain has confirmed his form as a world-class opening bat, and solayed his way into the cricket books beside such other England openers as Hutton and Hobbs. When such players open the innings, confidence runs through the pavil-

ion and foreboding through the fielders. Television has increased the pressure on all sportsmen for instant success. For they are now highly paid entertainers, and expected to win for their paymasters.

Atherton does not rate the one-day games as serious cricket. But many of his public do. So England can now crown their winter campaign by winning them, if possible with style. Their dressing-room siege mentality and whinging publicity have not done much for the generous spirit of the game. It is a noble cliché. But it is also true: England cricketers are ambassadors, and should be seen to enjoy themselves and the countries they are lucky enough to be selected to tour.

And England's first win of an overseas series since 1992 has not raised them overnight to the top of the world rankings. Just as their relative failure in Zimbabwe did not make them bottom of the league. But their first six batsmen are beginning to look like making runs rather than routs. Atherton has become one of the most formidable openers, especially in a pinch. Tufnell and Croft have spun for victory. England's strike bowlers are on and off and wide. And from the opposition, Zimbabwe have made their mark as a world power, and Daniel Vettori has made his mark as a schoolboy prodigy with a twirl that is going to cause trouble.

So in spite of its bad temper and bad luck, this has been a good tour, so far. After the rain comes the sunshine. After the duck or the umpire's bad decision comes the perfect late cut or the unplayable reverse swing. Uncertainty is the element in which cricket, like life, glories. At this rate England will start to believe they can thrash Australia this summer. And once they believe that, they can.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

criminal justice

From Baroness Blatch, Minister of State, Home Office

Sir, William Rees-Mogg (The Lords aren't soft on crime, just sensible", Pebruary 17) is wrong to imply that under the Crime (Sentences) Bill petty thieves will automatically receive a three-year prison sentence for a third conviction. They will not.

The Bill targets persistent house burglars - career criminals who make money out of breaking into other people's homes. The "petty thief" who steals milk bottles from someone's doorsten - which after all is where most milk bottles are left by the milkman - will not be subject to automatic minimum sentences.

It is essential that the public have confidence in our criminal justice sys-tem. If people believe that justice will not be done then that is the route to rigilantism and mob rule. A sample from the Crown Courts in 1993 and 1994 showed that the average sentence for a first conviction of domestic burglary was 16.2 months - and the burglar serves only half of that. For a third conviction it was 18.9 months and for a seventh or more it was 19.4 months. In fact almost 30 per cent of those convicted of domestic burglary for a seventh time were not sent to

I do not believe - nor do the police and most members of the public, including the man on the top of the bus referred to so disparagingly by Wil-liam Rees-Mogg — that this is a suffi-cient punishment. The Bill will ensure that anyone convicted of a third offence of burglary (not petty theft) re-ceives a sentence of no less than three

years in prison. William Rees-Mogg may believe it is wrong to listen to what the public have to say about law and order. I do not. Government has a duty to reflect public opinion and to place before Parliament proposals to address such anxieties. At the end of the day it is for Parliament to decide. In this way confidence in the criminal justice system will be strengthened.

Yours sincerely, EMILY BLATCH, Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, SWI. February 17.

Cancer therapies

From the Director-General of the Cancer Research Campaign

Sir, The Cancer Research Campaign believes people with prostate cancer have a right to know about available

I was therefore surprised to see that Professor Miles Irving was suggesting (letter, February 13) that the Campaign was "causing confusion" by advising men concerned about prostate cancer that curative treatment is available as an alternative to a policy of watchful waiting".

Professor Irving also implies that the Campaign supports the PSA screening test for prostate cancer which, until there is evidence that this is effective, we do not.

Few would dispute that treatment of early invasive cancer improves life expectancy over treatment of metastatic (secondary) disease. Despite the lack of clear evidence at this time on the survival benefits of curative options over a watch and wait policy (and a current Medical Research Council trial is addressing this issue), it seems reasonable to offer the option of curative therapy to men if they wish it.

Finally, you stated (article, February 4) that barely £400,000 a year was being spent on prostate cancer re-search in this country. The Cancer Research Campaign alone is spending more than £1 million annually on research into this disease.

Yours sincerely, GORDON McVIE, Director General, Cancer Research Campaign. 10 Cambridge Terrace, NW1.

Degree standards

From the Vice-Provost of London Guildhall University

Sir, I am concerned at the impression given by today's report, "A-level ques-

tion is used in degree course exam".

The unit being examined deals with computer hardware, and is taught over 13 weeks to students at South Thames College who do not have Alevel computing. Thus there was just one question of an A-level type in an ab initio course examination. If all such questions were prohibited, universities up and down the country would have difficulty with units in mathematics for economics, statistics for biologists and the rest.

The syllabus of which this paper is part has been validated by a panel of experts and is monitored through our quality assurance procedures which were satisfactorily audited in 1995 by the Higher Education Quality Coun-

A serious debate about progression. through a modular degree cannot be conducted simply by juxtaposing individual questions from discrete examination systems with alarmist claims about declining standards of education. I am confident that contemporary graduates are as well prepared and accomplished as ever their prede-

Yours faithfully, DEIAN R. HOPKIN, Vice-Provost, London Guildhall University, 31 Jewry Street, EC3. February 17.

Public opinion on Broader view on appointments of women in the Church

From the Dean of St Paul's

Sir. Your plea that the Church of England might be "a broad church" (leading article, February 14) will be greatly welcomed by many. It has been the peculiar genius of the Church of England to contain diversities of theological tradition and religious experience, whilst holding resolutely to the task of offering public ministry to the whole life of the nation.

The significance of the Church of England's decision to ordain women to the priesthood and simultaneously to make pastoral provision for those who are opposed is no more and no less than our desire and determination to be in the best sense of the words a broad church and not a Protestant sect. There are many of us who are glad to serve as priests in a church which has the imagination, the hones-

ty and the courage to live with the ambiguity and the pain that are inseparable from these things. Let it not be forgotten that the integ-rity of the Church of England stands or falls not by its position in law as the established Church but by its continuing commitment to the principles of catholicism and reformation. Key words in our Anglican vocabulary are

not liberalism and compromise, but

liberality and comprehensiveness. Yours faithfully, JOHN MOSES, The Deanery, 9 Amen Court, EC1.

From Mrs Sally Barnes

Sir, Far from causing a split, the appointment of a woman priest to St Paul's (report, February 13) is uniting the cathedral with the rest of the diocese and bringing it into line with

mainstream Anglican practice.
Two thousand people of all ages. many of them from other churches or of no religious affiliation, visit the cathedral daily. The presence of a woman priest alongside her male col-

leagues will affirm to them the position of women within the Church of England. It will also give a positive and public signal to women and men, in and outside the Church, that age and gender are no longer an acceptable means of discrimination in any walk of life.

With over 80 women priests in London, congregations and chaplaincies everywhere are now appreciating the benefits of women's priestly ministry. They, with Londoners throughout the diocese, will join us in welcoming the appointment of the Reverend Lucy Winkett to St Paul's and all that she brings.

Yours faithfully. SALLY BARNES (Secretary to the London committee, WATCh (Women and the Church)), 94 Hamilton Road, NWII. February 18.

From Canon R. J. Halliburton

Sir, I am grateful to you for your discerning and balanced leading article. Certainly, if the Church of England has any claims to belong to the one holy catholic and apostolic church, then it must continue to admit both integrities of belief on the issue of the ordination of women to the priesthood.

My own opposition to such ordinations is not based on prejudice against women in positions of leadership and responsibility, but on consideration for our unity with the rest of Christendom. The few of us in the Anglican tradition who for many years now have been involved in the ecumenical movement and knowing and loving both Europe (Eastern and Western) and the Third World remain profoundly concerned that Christians should work together.

We believe that we are one church and one ministry with Roman Catholics, Orthodox and many Lutherans in the apostolic succession, and that we should work together, pray together and share one another's ministry. We are bound to have some disagree-

We look forward to seeing clear

statements of policy in each party's election manifesto and a commitment

to action within the first 18 months of

the next Parliament. Long-term care

matters to all voters - not just the 24

per cent of voters who are pensioners:

developing awareness.

they deserve nothing less.

SALLY GREENGROSS

Yours faithfully,

(Help the Aged),

CHAI PATEL

(TC Group plc).

B. WOOD

February 18.

PAUL SEYMOUR.

(Age Concern England),

MERVYN KOHLER

(PPP Lifetime Care plc).

ments. But we should take the greatest care to move forward together and not as a group of independent bodies who believe themselves entitled to be creative and innovative where they see

The General Synod decision of 1992 was taken by people who seem to care nothing and know nothing about our fellow Christians in many other parts of the world who are cutting deep swaths into unbelief and injustice but are agreed that, as yet, it is not appropriate to ordain women to the priest-

Yours sincerely, JOHN HALLIBURTON, I Amen Court, EC4. February 15.

From Mr William E. Bridge

Sir, You report that the self-confessed almost tone deaf Dean of St Paul's, Dr John Moses, has said that the remarkable ability of the woman candidate as a soprano singer made her the strongest candidate for the appointment as a minor canon of St Paul's Cathedral. Apparently the other can-

didates were all male. The various inventions and devices being used to secure the appointment of a priestess never cease to amaze; but this must surely top them all.

Yours sincerely. WILLIAM E. BRIDGE, 175 Crofton Road. Orbington, Kent. February 13.

From the Reverend M. E. Percival

Sec App Carlot Tel

Sir. May I inquire how many men in the past have been appointed as minor canons six months after their ordination as priests?

Yours faithfully. MARTIN E. PERCIVAL. 12 Moorfield Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk. February 14.

Political realities of long-term care

From the Chairman of the Continuing Care Conference,

Sir, Each year some 40,000 people have to sell their homes to pay for care and at least one in four of today's older people will need a high level of care in their lifetime. These are uncomfortable facts and many people may have difficulty facing them. Sadly, it would appear that the political parties also have difficulty facing up to the impor-

tance, and immediacy, of the issues. As members of the Continuing Care Conference, we believe that the funding and provision of long-term care reires nothing less than a coherent, national framework within which to develop a range of solutions to meet different needs. Tomorrow we launch our own manifesto which concen-

trates on three major points: securing funding, guaranteeing standards and

Trial by media From Mr N. B. C. Evelegh

Sir, A real concern in the difficult and tragic situation surrounding the Stephen Lawrence case [letters. February [7] is that the young men named by the Daily Mail do not have the financial resources to obtain satisfaction through a libel case. Can I suggest that the Mail offers to underwrite their legal expenses if they wish to bring a charge of libel.

Bearing in mind that they maintained their right of silence at the inquest when they might have been exected to demonstrate their innocence, I doubt that this would cost the news paper very much. In this way it would demonstrate its recognition that trial by media is normally unacceptable. Yours sincerely.

NICK EVELEGH. Hodges Farmhouse. Cranbrook, Kent. February 15.

Continuing Care Conference,

12 Little College Street, SWI.

Sir, Dr David Walter contrasts the

great admiration for Lee Kuan Yew, but when he suggests that perhaps children would be better cared for if they could stay on at school to do their homework until a parent returns home, it is not a "mature discussion between government and people to solve everyday problems" - it hap-

If children stay at school to do "homework" it is, of course, no longer homework. The school day is simply extended. The value of homework, if well set, lies in doing it at home.

Yours sincerely, 46 Ambleside Drive, Spalding, Lincolnshire. February 12

British Council

From Sir John Hanson, Director-General of the British Council

Sir, Your report (February 14; see also letters January 28, 30) may have given the impression that all the British Council's lending libraries have been closed in every Western European country except France. in fact out of 21 libraries in Western Europe 15 currently offer lending services to library members. We have never aimed to run general public library services which serve the needs of allcomers at the British taxpayer's expense. All 21 provide a reference collection, information about Britain and, increasingly, modern electronic services.

Outside Western Europe the Council operates a further 172 libraries and information centres, 122 of which also lend books to their subscribers.

Overall these services bring millions of people each year into contact with Britain, its culture, its expertise and the English language. Our main problem is finding the resources to keep up with the overwhelming de-

Yours faithfully. J. G. HANSON, Director-General. The British Council. 10 Spring Gardens, SWI.

Latchkev children

From Mr A. J. Dilley

way Singapore and Britain face the issue of working parents and their children's needs (letter, February 12). I know Singapore well and have a

A. J. DILLEY,

Fish and pheromones From Mr J. K. Brennand

dispensable, not Tupp (article, Feb-

Sir, The spelling of the fly is Tup's in-

ruary 1; letters, February 8). An essential ingredient of this fly, invented by R. S. Austin, is ram's wool, taken from the underparts, or more specifically scrotum, of a tup. When this secret was divulged to the famous angler G. E. M. Skues he named the fly Tup's Indispensable. This surely puts a different complexion on the debate on pheromones and female angling prowess.

I agree with Ms Wilma Paterson's letter - let us give credit to the ladies for their skill as anglers, remembering that the sine qua non for outstanding success in salmon fishing is the opportunity to fish first-class water. The three record-breakers referred to by Simon Jenkins had this good fortune, and made the most of it.

Yours sincerely, J. K. BRENNAND, 1 Brompton Terrace, Perth, Tayside.

Business letters, page 29

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Getting the bird From Lord Wright

of Richmond, GCMG

Sir. Mr Rauf Denktas's canary (Diary, February 14) is not the only bird to have caused difficulty for interview-

As Private Secretary to the British Ambassador in Washington in the early 1960s, I well remember the frustrated efforts of Robin Day to overcome the screeches of the Ambassador's peacocks, while trying to con-

Macmillan on the Residence veranda. The problem of the peacocks was incidentally compounded a few weeks later when the New Zealand Ambassador's dog (from next door) severely

mauled one of them. It was left to me to explain to both Their Excellencies what had happened: an early piece of diplomatic train-

Yours faithfully, PATRICK WRÍGHT, House of Lords. February 14.

Birthday mission

From Mr Kenneth Adams Sir. You mentioned that on his 21st birthday Bunny Rymills (obituary, February 13) was flying over Ger-many as a sergeant pilot in a Whitley bomber. As a contemporary of his at

the Oxford School of Architecture, I

remember his account of how he cele-

With bombs gone and the crate of beer almost empty he and his crew "went round again" aiming their empty bottles at their target with as much skill as could be expected under such circumstances, and finally dropping the beer crate itself, thus losing forever the opportunity to reclaim the 15

shillings refundable deposit. Yours faithfully, KENNETH ADAMS. Eastwater Close. Snowdenham Lane. Bramley, Guildford, Surrey. February 15.

Biter bitten From Mr Nicholas Serpell

Sir, Philip Howard, in his comments on Nigel de Gruchy's confusion of Draco with Dracula - Journalists like a good howler" (February 14) commits one himelf.

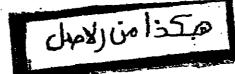
It was, in fact, Christopher Lee who donned the black cape and fangs as the Count in the Hammer horror films. Peter Cushing, in the role of Abraham Van Helsing, did not need elongated cuspids: just a stake.

Yours faithfully. NICHOLAS SERPELL. 68 Falmouth Road, Redruth, Cornwall. February 14.

From Ms Patricia Tyrrell

Sir, Philip Howard's comment brings to mind a recent lament in our local newspaper that the night sky can only be seen clearly nowadays by people who live in the Styx. A rather deeper night, presumably.

Yours faithfully, PATRICIA TYRRELL, 17 Century Court. Porth, Newquay, Comwall. February 14.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE February 18: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace

Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.
Group Captain David Walker was received by Her Majesty.
Members of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group were invited to Tea with The Queen.
The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of Her Maiesty this evening.

Majestry this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited Northwood Head-quarters, Northwood, Middlesex, His Royal Highness this afternoon visited the John Lyon School, Middle Royal Highness this afternoon Middle

Road, Harrow, Middlesex.
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by the Lord Lucas of Crudwell (Lord in Waiting) at the Service of Thanks-giving for the life of the Lord Hankey (formerly Her Majesty's Archassador to Sweden) which was held in St Margaret's Church Westminster Ab-bey today.

The Hon Mary Morrison has

succeeded Lady Dugdale as Lady in Waiting to Her Majesty. BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 18: The Princess Royal, President. The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this afternoon visited Greenwich Carers Centre, Macbean Centre, Macbean Street, London SE18.

Her Royal Highesss, Patron, SENSE-the National Dealblind and Rubella Association, later visited Unit 4, Winslade Way, Catford, Leader 5, 198

Citizens Advice Bureau, the Library CLARENCE HOUSE

CLAKENCE HOUSE
February I8: Mrs Michael CordonLennox has succeeded Miss Jane
Walker-Okcover as Lady-in-Waiting
to Queen Elizabeth The Queen
Mother.

ST JAMES'S PALACE ST JAMES 5 PALACE
February ils: The Prince of Wales this
afternoon attended a Reception at the
Lebanese Embassay to launch an
Urban Design Task Force, to be
undertaken by The Prince of Wales's
Project Office in the Lebanon later
this team.

this year.

His Royal Highness afterwards visited the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to view the restoration work. THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE February 18: Princess Alexandra. Honorary Commandant General, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this morning visited the Royal Hong Kong Audiliary Police Headquarters, Kowloon. Her Royal Highness subsequently opened the new Audiliary Police Headquarters at Kowloon Bay and attended a Reception. This afternoon Princess Alexandra

This afternoon Princess Alexandra and the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy attended a Reception for Honorary Presidents and members of the Junior Police Call at the Police

Officers Chub.

Her Royal Highness and the Rt
Hon Sir Angus Ogitvy later amended
a Dinner given by the Royal Hong
Kong Police Force at Police Headquarters, Caine House, Hong Kong.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Chan-cellor, will visit Edinburgh Univer-sity and attend a dinner at the Playfair Library Hall, Old College at 7.30.

The Prince of Wales, as President of The Prince's Trust, will visit the trust's Hackney project at 6 Gilpin Road, Gilpin Square, London E5 at 10.20; will visit the Shadwell Basin project at Shadwell Pierhead, Glamis Road, El at II.15; and will visit Tower Hamlets College, Poplar High Street, E5 at 12.30. The Princess Royal, as Patron of

The Butler Trust, will visit Fel-tham Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre, Bedfont Road, Feltham, at 9.45. She will open Méadow Wood School, Coldharbour Lane, Bushey, at 11.45; as Patron of the International Health Exchange, will attend the launch of the Code of Best Practice in the Management and Support of Aid Personnel at the Royal Society of Medicine at I Wimpole Street at 1.00; as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Ex-port Council, will visit Burro, 19a Floral Street, Covent Garden, at 2.10; on behalf of The Royal Associaton of British Dairy Farmers, she will present The Princess Royal Award at Buckingham Palace at 4.00; and as Patron of the British Executive Service Over-seas, will hold a reception Buckingham Palace at

The Duke of Kent as Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will open Ridley Bagels, Ridley House, Dunhams Lane, at 11.40; will open Electrox Lasers for Industry, Avenue One, The Business Park, Leichworth, at 12.15; and will visit Laminar Medica, Tring Industrial Estate, Tring, at 2.55.

Legal appointment

Judge David Clarke, QC, is to succeed Judge Wickham when he retires as a Senior Circuit Judge on the Northern Circuit on April 30. Judge Clarke will sit at Liverpool Combined Court.

Birthdays today

The Duke of York celebrates his 37th birthday today.

Mr Peter Baldwin, former chief executive, Radio Authority. 70; Sir John Collyear, engineer, 70; the Rev Dr G. Henton Davies, Principal Emeritus, Regent's Park College, Oxford, 91; Sir Nicholas Fenn, diplomat, 61; Lord Forbes, 79; Mr John Freeman, former MP, diplomat and chairman, London Weekend Television, 82: Lord Henniker, 81; Dr Robin Jeffrey. chairman, Scottish Nuclear, 58; Miss Hana Mandlikova, tennis

player. 35; Professor Bernard Meadows, sculptor, 82; Dr Alan J. Munro, Master, Christ's College, Cambridge, 60; Mr Nigel Nicholls, Clerk of the Privy Council, 59; Sir Daniel Pettit, former chairman, National Freight Corporation, 82; Mrs Erin Pizzey, author and founder of first shelter for battered wives, 58; Mr Peter Price, former MEP, 55; Mr Smokey Robinson, singer, 57; Mr Colin Sharman, UK senior partner, KPMG, 54; Miss Gwen Taylor, actress, 58; Mr Brian Tesler, former deputy chairman. LWT (Holdings), 68.

Memorial services

Lord Hankey

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Lord Lucas of Crudwell at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Hankey held yeswork to inst Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey. Canon Donald Gray, Chaplain to the Speaker, officiated and the

Rev John Sheldon led the prayers The Hon Alex Hankey and Lord Hankey, sons, read the lessons and Mrs Parnela Walsh, cousin, read from the works of William Wordsworth.

Dame Gillian Brown gave an address. During the service the Hon Beatrice Hankey, grand-daughter, sang Handel's I know that my Redeemer liveth. The Rev Roger Holloway, Priest Vicar, the Rev F. Armand-Smith

and the Rev David Horner were robed and in the Sanctuary. The Lord Chancellor attended The Secretary of State for Poreign and Commonwealth Affairs was represented by Sir John Margetson and the Permanent Under-Secretary and Head of the Diplomatic Service by Mr Francis Richards. Among others present

Richards. Among others present were stephanie Lady Hankey (widow), Mr and the Hon Mrs Peter Alchin (son-in-law and deaghter), Lady Hankey (deaghter-in-law), the Hon Forna Hankey, Mr and Mrs G Alchin and Mrs Mikali Anggard-Runston (grandchildren), the Hon Christopher and Mrs Hankey (brother and sister-in-law), the Hon Lady Benn (sister), Mrs L V Brian (sister-in-law), Mr and Mrs Hankey (brothers-in-law), and Mrs Desmond JWard and Commander and Mrs Hankey Honders-in-law), Mr Rupert Hankey, Mr and Mrs Michael Compton, Miss Daisy Neville, Mr Andrew Wilkon, Mrs Christina Wilton, Mr Cerl Hankey, Mr and Mrs Perl Hankey, Mr and Mrs Simon Erridge, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs John Hibbert, Miss Juliet Hibbert, Brigadier Nigel Haynes, Mr T S Haynes, Brigadier



مكذا من رلامل

Barbara Windsor and Sir Harry Secombe after the service for Beryl Reid yesterday

Lord and Lady Greenhill of Harrow, Baroness Hydron-Poster, Sir Edward du Cann. Sir Anthony and Lady Meyer, Sir Frank Roberts, Sir Donald Murray, Sir Denis and Lady Wright, Sir Patrick Relily, Lady Curie, Sir Douglas and Lady Dodds-Parker, General Sir Ian Gourlay, Sir John and Lady Coborn. Lady Ross, Lady Spencer, Mr Ambrose and Dame Dean Dowling.

Mr David Anderson, Mrs Farmand-Smith, Mrs J A Briance, Mr Mauter, Mr J Cain, His Honour and Mrs Brian Clapham, Mr David Horner, Mrs Li Langley, Mrs Jeremy Leigh Pembetton, Mrs Woone MacEwen, Mr and Mrs A R Moore, Captain and Mrs Peter Prince, Mr Anatole Rainey, Mr Francis Rainey, Tajana Counties Zubolf-Rainey, Mr Hugo Rainey, Mr A C Rainey, Mr and Mrs O K Rainey, Mr and Mrs G C Sheldon, Mr J G Sheldon, Mr J Leremy Rooth, Mr J G Sheldon,

Miss Beryl Reid

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Miss Beryl Reid was held yesterday at St Paul's, Covent Garden. The Very Rev David Elliott officiated. Miss Susie Blake gave a read-

address and Miss Eileen Atkins paid tribute. Miss Issy van Randwyck sang Cole Porter's Every time we say goodbye with Mr Larry Adler, mouth organ, accompanied by Mr Dave Hardey, piano. Among oth-

Dave Hartley, piano. Among others present were:

Mr Peter Reid, Mrs Susan ReidPovali: Lady Secombe, Sir Fergus
Montgomery, MP, Mr and Mrs
James Sharkey, Mr Simon Starkey,
Mr Gavin Barker, Mr Paul Strike,
Mr Gavin Barker, Mr Paul Strike,
Mr Hilvid Harrington, Mrs Beny
Milne, Miss Barbara Windsor, Mr
Bernard Cribbins, Mr Timothy
Altchison and Miss June Whitfield,
Mr Richard Jackson, Mr Ned
Sherrin, Mr Michael Aspel, Mr Ken
Cranham, Ms Dorothy Stratton,
Miss Retta Read, Mr Matthew
Bourne, Miss Bella Emberg, Mr
John Bird, Mr Malcolm Finnimore,
the Rev Michael Hurst-Bannister,
Mrs Penny Davenport, Mr Robert
John Bird, Mr Malcolm Finnimore,
the Rev Michael Hurst-Bannister,
Mr Peter McEnery, Mr Robert Luft,
Mr Ken Parry, Mr Michael Codron,
Miss Olivia Ward, Mr and Mrs John
Ward, Mr George Evans, Mr Robert
Bruce, Mrs Audrey Goldsmith, Mr
Keith Kraushaar.

Mrs Janice Neenan, Mr William
Small, Mr Roscoe Deane, Mr Roy
Senton, Mrs Vivien Sams, Mr John
Wright, Miss Margaret Andreazzi,
Mr Derek Hayden, Mrs P Abel, Mr
Gareth Thomas, Mr Christopher

Downes, Mr Michael Mear, Mr Michael Bevis, Ms Patricia Reld, Mr Francis Burnow, Mr Raymond Plowman, Mr John Roscoe, Mr Iohn Addy, Mr Pleter Rogess, Mr Richard Jackson, Miss Jean Baird, Miss Carol Weston.

Miss J Linden, Dr Christine Backsi, Mr James Thomas, Mr Roy Saward, Ms Rosle Jessop, Miss Ponly Gray, Mr Craig Douglas, Mr Anthony Rawie, Mrs Louise Smalle, Major Lance Brea, Mr Michael Tyrteil, Mr John Bullock, Mr Peter White, Mr Filchard Redding, Mr Roy Pyke, Mr John Hart Dyke, Mr Alec Bregong, Mr Derek Gloney, Mrs N Skelton, Miss Frunella de Havilland, Mr Peter Nurse, Mr John Skelton, Miss Rosemary, Steven Stoney, Mr Mc Christine Mason, Miss Rosemary, Steven Stoney, Mr Mr James Christine Mason, Miss Rosemary, Steven Stoney, Mr James Creat, Broom Club) with Mr Alan Curds and Ms Juliet Mander, Mrs Rosemary, Stevens (Actor's Renewolean Fund, Ms Rossyn Officer (Royal Theatrical Fund), Mr Sidney Vauncez (The Stage newspaped with Mr Patrick Newley, Mr James Pellow (Sie of Wight Theatres), Councillor Jerenny Roberts (The Key Theatre, Peterborough), Mrs Lisa Parkas (Walton Theatre Collection), Mr Sidneys (Right Theatres), Wighters), and many other friends.

RHS Flower Show

Signs of spring sparkle through the winter

By Alan Toogood, horticulture correspondent

DESPITE the rain and gales the first signs of spring are apparent at the Royal Horticultural Society's ver show with sparkling displays of early flowering bulbs. Snowdrops feature in many

exhibits, but they are creating an extensive white carpet on the stand of Forgrove Plants, of Enborne, Berkshire, where more than 50 kinds are on display. This gold-medal exhibit includes snowdrops in all shapes and sizes, from the fat flowers of "Bertram Anderson" and "Gaiatea" to the doublepetalled "Walrus". Other outstand-ing cultivars are "John Gray" with big heavy blooms and the tall upright "Benhall Beauty". Hoop petticoat dalfodils, or cul-

tivars of Narcissus bulbocodium, are being featured by Broadleigh Gardens, of Bishops Hull, Somerset. They range from the lemon yellow "liffany", through cream "Nylon", "Tarlatan" and "Mus-lin", to white "Tafleta".

Bursts of sunshine through the glass roof of the hall are encourag-ing the crocuses on the stand of

Jacques Amand, of Stammore, west London, to open their flowers. The generous drift of Crocus sieberi Firefly", with lilac flowers sporting bright orange stigmas, is particularly eye-catching. Many other early-flowering

plants are also helping to create welcome colour at this show, which opened in Westmins terday. Alpine and woodland plants by Edrom Nurseries, of Coldingham, Borders, include a primrose called *Primula* "Tantallon" with light violet flowers and farina-covered leaves, a choice plant for a cool shady spot. Corvdalis are in vogue, and a new one shown for the fist time in Britain is Corydalis solida transylvanica with deep pink flowrs, easily grown in a sunny spot with well-drained soil.

A colourful display of conifers which includes deep gold Ables nordmanniana "Golden Spreader" has won a gold medal for Lincluden Nursery, of Bisley

Green, Surrey. Other plants for winter effect are dens, of Kenton, Devon, including several willows such as Salix x rubra "Eugenei" with reddish catkins, and S. alba "Dart's Snake" with corkscrew-like stems. Burncoose Nurseries, of Redruth, Cornwall, have an unusual willow - S. x caprea "Curiy Locks" with twisted red shoots and silver carkins. It has been top grafted to form a small tree.

Although the RHS ornamental plants' competition was considerably better supported than the January competition, the recent gaies have reduced the number of entries. Mrs E Bullivant, of Stourton House Garden, Wilt-shire has won the class for four trees or shrubs shown for their flowers, fruits, foliage and col-bured bark, with Sarcococca humilis, Cornus alba "Sibirica". and Skimmia japonica. Mr M. A. Nelhams, exhibiting for Tresco Abbey Gardens, isles of Scilly, Cornwall, has won the class for four community learners of different

four Ornamental plants of different

genera in bloom, with Protea susannae, Acacia longifolia. Leucadendron laurefolium and Agonis marginata. The class for a conifer shown for its foliage has been won by the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, with Calocedrus decurrens "Aureovariegata", and Mr R. D. Kleinwort, of Heaslands, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, has won the class for a conifer

has won the class for a confier shown for its cones, with Cupressus arizonica Glauca. In the British iris Society's competition for early bulbous (reticulate) irises. Mrs T. Neylor, of Maidstone, Kent, has won the mini-recham cup for a collection of hybrids and species. Mrs B. Baughen, of Downe, Kent, has gained most points in the competition and has also won the Pairicla Linnegar memorial trophy for a "garden" of hybrids and species.

The following artists have been awarded gold medals: Martin J. Allen. of Aklam, Cleveland twatercolours of Prititiaries, Dr A. P. Brown, of London (watercolours of Featherstone, Wolverhampton (gouache paintings of bearded lises); and Romilly Swan, of Reading, Bertshire (watercolour and gouache paintings of succidents). The show, in the New Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, westminster, is open today from 10am to 5pm.

Service dinner

RN Medical Service

Surgeon Vice-Admiral A.L. Revell, Surgeon Vice-taining a rest of De-lence, was the guest of Officers of the Royal Navy Medical Service serving in the London area at a dinner held last night at the Royal Navel College Geographic to mark Naval College Greenwich to mark

Surgeon Commodore LL Jenkins presided.

Dinner

SIMON WALKER

United & Cecil Club Sir Sydney Chapman, MP, was the host at a dinner of the United & Cecil Club held last night at the House of Commons. Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the club, pre-sided. Dr Brian Mawhinney, MP. was the principal guest and speaker and Sir Anthony Garner also spoke.

Bruno Gabriele

A Memorial Service for the life and work of Bruno Gabriele will take place in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, at noon on Thursday, March 20, 1997. All are welcome, and those wishing to attend are requested to apply for tickets to: Miss Tina Castillo. One Broadgate, London, EC2M 7HA.

The March Ball

The 1997 March Ball is being held at the Hyatt Carlton Tower on Thursday, March 6. Mr Steven Norris, MP, will be the guest of honour. For further information telephone 0171 352 0102.

Service luncheon

RASC and RCT Members and Committee of the Royal Army Service Corps and the Royal Corps of Transport Officers Luncheon Club entertained Major P.J. Sheppard at hincheon yes-terday at Mark Masons Hall, St James's. Brigadier D.N. Locke, presided.

Receptions HIM Government

Mr Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, and Mr Jeremy Hanley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, were the hosts at a reception given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House to mark the launch of the South to mark the launch of the South East Asia Campaign. British Safety Council

Sir Neville Purvis, Director Gen-eral of the British Safety Council, was the nost at a reception held yesterday at Armourers' Hall for the Diploma in Safety Management awards.

Baroness Seccombe

the host at a reception held last Thursday at the House of Lords for the European Union of Women. Jaguar Cars Ltd were the spon-Sors. The Right Hon Stephen Dorrell, MP, and Ms Bibiana Boerio, Financial Director of Jaguar Cars Ltd, were the speakers. The Right Hon Kenneth Clarke, QC. MP, and 164 guests were present

University news Oxford

St Antony's College Elected to an honorary fellowship: Geoffrey Elliott.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.E. Gidley Kitchia and Miss N.M. Vanden Berghe The engagement is announced between Toru, son of Mr and Mrs Greville Gidley-Kitchin, of Kemsing Kent, and Natine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Joseph Vanden Berghe, of Castlelough, County Tipperary.

Mr P.J. Hollis and Miss G.E. Merkison The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs Roy Hollis, of Stamfordham, Northumberland, and Gill, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Don Meekison, of Dundee.

Mr G.M. Howell and Miss E.J. Hooker The engagement is announced between Gavin, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Howell, of Brookmans

Mrs Kobert ridweit, and Ermna, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Hooker, of Little Hallingbury, Hertfordshire. Mr J. Randall and Miss A.E. Stockbridge

The engagement is announced between Justin, son of Mr and Mrs Surrey, and Emma, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Raiph Stockbridge, of Shepreth, Cambridgeshive. James Randall, of Windlesham, Mr P.J. Wilson

and Dr S.L. Commings and Dr S.L. Cutmangs

The engagement is announced between Philip, younger son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Wilson, of Mansfield, Nottinghatnshire, and Susannah, daughter of Dr John and Dr Geraldine Cummings, of Greet Shelford, Combridge Great Shelford, Cambridge.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Nicolaus Copernicus, astronomer, Thorun, Poland, 1473; David Garrick, actor-manager, Hereford, 1717: Luigi Boccherini composer, Lucza, Italy, 1743; Adelina Patti, Baroness Cederstron, soprano, Madrid, 1843; Jimmy Durante, actor and comedian, New York City, 1893; Sir Cedric Hardwicke, actor, Lye, Worcestershire, 1893; Merle Oberon, actress, Bombay, 1911; Lee Marvin, actor, New York, 1924.

DEATHS: Blondin (Jean-François Gravelet), acrobat and tightrope walker, London, 1897; Ernst Mach, physicist, Haar, Germany, 1916; André Gide, writer, Nobel laureate 1947, Paris, 1951; Knut Hamsun. novelist, Nobel laureate 1920, Grimstad, Norway, 1952; John Grierson, documentary maker, Bath, 1972. Napoleon Bonaparte established

himself as First Consul after overthrowing the French Government, 1800. Bread riots took place in Liverpool,

The Women's Institute was founded by Mrs Hoodless in Ontario, Canada, 1897. It was introduced to Britain during the Pirst World War.

Independence for Cyprus was guaranteed by an agreement signed in London by Britain, Turkey and Greece, 1959.

Latest wills

Geoffrey Stephen Hamilton, the horticultural journalist and gar-dening personality, of Exton, Rut-land, left estate valued at £683,485

Eric James Ranby, of Grimble-thorpe, Louth, Lincolnshire, left estate valued at £1,412,219 net. John Christopher Blackett-Ord, of Whitfield Hexham Northumberland, left estate valued at EL035.037 met.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

Royal British Legion.

WESTRY - Peter PRICS.
Peacefully on 16th February
1997 in hospital after an
illness borne with great
courage, Peter, beloved
husband of Jane, loving
Daddy of Amy and Owen,
demy loved son of Peggie
and Alan, much loved
brother of Anne. Brother-ininv to Miles, Anne and Keith.
Funbral. to be held on
Wednesday 26th February.
Cremation Service 12.15 ym
at Enfield Crematorium
folkswal by a Thanksgiring
Service at 1 pm at Trinity
Church, Gentlesurus Bow,
Brifield. No flowers planes
but domations if desired to
Luperial Couract Research.

Imperial Cancer Resea Fund of Blake & Hotlock

I will not multify the grace of God; if righteotymess comes by law, then Christ died for nothing, Galatians 2 : 21

AL-DASSOUS - On February 14th at The February Hospital, to Gemila Ai-Mutawa and Hamad, a Jovely Hitle girl, Haya, a sister for Layan. Layan. ALTON - On February 1st, to Kate (noe Russell) and Peter, a daughter, Hannah Mary, a sister for Thomas.

BIRTHS

AXTON - On February 10th 1997, to Miranda (née Cole) and Harry, a daughter, Anabel Grace. SEVERLEY - On February 16th, to Victoria (née Broaches) and Peter, a daughter. A sister for Alice and Flora-

master for Alice and Flors.

CHRISTOPHERSON - On February 14th, to Karen (noe Ensigh) and Peter, a son, Antony Feitz. palweon on jamery 21st, to Ruth (née Schoffeld) and Grant, a daughter, Eve Clarissa, a sister to Faye and Elliot.

Elliot.

DORSON - On February 14th at Stirling Royal Infilmany, to Terrill (nose Tourses) and Govin, a daughter, Olivia Gazea Ritchie, a sixter for Henry and Alyssa.

IMPOR - On February 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Claudia (nose Harris) and Jeffrey, a son, Dahlel Sam Henry.

Henry-MARCHANT - On February 11th, to Mary (née Ridsdill Smith) and Simon, a son, Luke Marcus Alec, a brother

Labe Marcus Alec, a mother for Herry. PEREIRA - On Sth February, to frances (nés Sackey) and Migel, a besturiful divighter, Olivia Simone Janet, a sister for Daniel Jerome. WOODS - On 17th February, to Jean (née Philitps) and Neil a daughter, Himboth India a sister for Katherine.

DEATHS

necessity - Josephine Grace on 18th February, Dendy loved wife of Trevet and mother of Jean and Catherine, Funeral Requiem at Winchester Cathedral on Saturday 22nd Fabruary at 8 am. Frensong and Thanksgiving on Saturday 22nd March at 5.30pm, Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Friends of Winchester Cathedral, Deanney Cottage, The Glose, Deanery Cottage, The Glose Winchester SQ23 915. whenester SUZ3 915.

BHANDARI - Arus Kumar, beloved hoshand and father passed away 16th February in Pootsa, 18th, Mouraed by Jane (née Braithwaite), Madhu, Ehman, Tarus and the Rusinwaite family.

SLYTH - On February 15th 1997 James John peacefully in hospital at Bradford-on-Avon aged 90 years. BOWERS - Victor MD PRCpatt of Saltwood, Hythe, Kent aged 83, on 18th February after a short flowers pusca private. No flowers please.

ROWN - Rozald Geoffrey BROWN - Rohald Geoffrey.

Ried placefully at home on
Saturday February 15th
1997, with strength and
dignity, after a long and
brave struggle, aged 56
years. Deathy loved husbond
of Maurem, caring father of
Netl, Keith and Fhilip,
beloved eider son of Dorothy

Neil, Keith and Philip, beloved elder son of Dorothy and brother of David. Cremation for family and close friends on Tuesday Schemary 25th at 11 am at Tamworth Eoad Crematorium, Sutton Coldield followed by a Savice of Tambagiving at Carri Lane City Centre: Church, Birmingham at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only please, if desired douations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund to Thomas Erong & Sens, 362 Strauford Road, Shirley, Solihall 890 4AY.

CAMERON-WERS - Mark, on February 15th after a long illness borne with great courage and dignity. Service at Mortlake Cremetosium at 2pm Saturday February 22nd. Flowers to Cheises F/D, 2608 Fulham Road, 5W10 9EL (0171) 352-0008. CHAPPLE-GILL - Berkeley Turberville. Brynderwen Hall Swich-y-Cibau, Powys. Passed away pascefully at home on February 13th 1997 aged 31 years, after an illness borne with characteristic counge and good humour. He will be so greatly missed by his wife Haurem, his family and by the many who valued his friendship. The Funeral Service followed by interneat in the Family wall will be held at Carist Church, Bwich-y-Cibau, on Thursday February 20th at 2.30 pm. No flowers but donations to Christ Church. Bwich-y-Cibau. Enquiries piems to L Jackson & Sons., Funeral Directors, Lianfyllin. Telephone: (01691) 648243. CHAPPLE-GILL - Berkeley

CRASTREE - Bernard Raydo on 14th February 1997 at home in Maidstone. Beloved husband of Peggy; dearly loved father of Glynts and much loved and loving granded of Folly and Este. Frivate burial in Suffolk. Memorial Service to be amoutmost later. Donations in his memory to The British Reart Foundation.

private. No lowers please.

BROOMS-WIGHES - Kevin died peacefully on 15th February.

1997 after a long illness. Funeral Service at the MM-Warwickshire Crematerium, Cokley Wood, near Warwick, on Monday 24th February at 12.30 pm. Family flowers cally Denations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund clo AE. Bennett & Some, 34 Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-fivon, CV37 SEE. CURWES - On February 15th, peacefully, Kenneth Harry ("Ken") of Bridgmorth, Smoothing, aged 70. Belowed Rusband of Valerie, deur Father of Twoc, Robert and Tina. Funeral, 5t Mary's Church, Bridgmorth, Saturday February 22th, 1san. No Lowers. Donations for British Hent Foundation and Concer Bellef Marmillan. Pund. Enguiries, Perry and Phillips FiD's, tel: (01746) 765258.

Cope) aged 96 peacefully at Button Village Nursing Home. Brentwood. on 18th February 1997. Beloved wife of the late Herbert James (Billy). Loving mother of Judy and Mary and grandpother of Janet and Alan. Cremation at Chelinsford Chematrium on Monday 24th February at 11.15 am. Family flowers only.

DOGGETT - Joyce Eileen posset away suddenly but peacefully after a long lineau, aged 70, on February 17th at 5r Catherine's Hospica. Much loved and deeply missed by her children Christopher and Ecsemary and all her family and friends. The funeral will take place at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Balcombe Road, Crawley, Sesset on Foldey February 21st at 215 pm. Flowers and/or domations (Impetal Cancer Basearch Fund), clo Ballard & Shortall Ltd. Haslett Road, Crawley,

Haslett Road, Crawley, Sussex. EDWARDS - Rathdoff Stu-EDWARDS - Rathdrff Stud. Golden, Cashel, Co. Tipperary, Iraland. 17th February 1997 pencarally at her residence, losephine Marie (Piar). Beloved unly daughter of Major and Doris. Much regretted by her cousins, relatives, neighbours and a large child of friends. ELP. Eemoval from Fogary's & Martins of the property S. Martins. of friends, ELP, Removal from Fogarry's & Mastins Funeral Home, Bank Face, Tipperary Town at 6.45 o'clock this (Wednesday) to 5t Patrick's Church, Kilfeacle. Requiem Mass tomorrow (Thursday) at 11.30 o'clock. Burial immediately afterwards to 5t Michael's Cemetery, Tipperary Town.

POUTIII - On 16th February
1997 The Reverend John
Guy aged 85 years, husband
of the late Dephine, a loving
lether and ganded, Pusseni
Service at All Saints Church,
Kettlestone, Royfold, Friday
21st February at 220 pm.
Flowers or donations for
Lettlestone Church may be
made at the service or sent
c/o Thornality Funeral
Services, 51-53 St James
Street, King's Lynn.
HARVEY & Mariente College.

Street, King's Lynh.

HARVEY - Marjorie Colston
passed away peacefully at
Ealing on lefth February.
Beloved wife of Bill and
mother of Devid and the late
Diana. Funeral Service at
Breakspear Crymaterium,
Ruisilp, on Friday 28th
February at 280 pm. Flowens
and enquiries to Sherry
Puneral Service, 317 Ruisilp
Road East, Greenford, tel:
(0181) 578-1402.

HIGGIES - Antony John

(0181) 578-1402.

HIGGINS - Antony John Brefney aged 61 died suddenly at his home in Flockia on February 15th 1977. Beloved hushand of Jean Marie Higgins (née Gazvelle) and loving brother of Julia MacDonald Comety and brother-law Anthony Comety. Also Survived by three nisons, Anne, Penslope, Claire and nephew, John and thirteen great-slepes and nephews all of Sectional nephews all of Sectional Hills. On Friday 14th nophews all of Scotland, Will.S - On Friday 14th. February, Audrey Alice Isobel, beloved mother of Vivieme, Julian and Lyndon, at Westmorland, General Hospital, 2014 70, Frinces! at St Mary's, Allithwaite, on Friday 21st February 21 12:30 pm. Family flowers only by request.

of the late Belinds Jane jackson-Raider are beartbroken to announce hearthroken to announce she passed away peacefully on Wednesday 12th February after a long filmers. A Service of Thanksgiving for her life of love and sacrifice will be held at St Gdlea Angliem Church, Park Lane, Ashbesd, Sunvy at 2 pm Fighry 21st February fallowed by hurial in the churchyard at 3 pm. All enquiries please to Longhurst Ondertakers. Theon. (01372) 725846 or Franties, 67 Hardotts Lane, Ashbesd, Sunvy ETI 202, tel: (01372) 275310, fest (01372) 279201. JONES - Philip Alexander Dickenson OBE, aged 51 after a long liness due to privations as a P.O.W. with the 287th Field Co. Royal Engineers 18th Div, in Malaya After the war Chief Press Officer with Export Guarantee Company, Dear husband of Maria, No flowers, Private cremation.

JEPHCOTT - Joseph Stanley (Jerry) ISO aged 88 years on February 18th 1997 in Clevedon. Dearly loved husband of Rosemary, father of Alexandra, father-in-law of Christopher, much loved grandfather of Thomas, Florence and Amelia. Fament Service at St February 1 lam, No flowers by request but densitions for the League of Friends Clevedon, on Hondry 24th February 1 lam, No flowers by request but densitions for the League of Friends Clevedon Hospital or the District Nurses Fund may be sent to R.G. Rwings Ltd. Funeral Directors, 5 Woodlands Road, Clevedon, North Somerset, tel: (01275) 873210.

KARAVASIL - Perry. The family of much loved Perry Karavasil and his close friends sadly amounce his death on 14th February 1997. May be rest in peace. A memorial service will be held for Perry in London in May. Please contact a member of the family for deaths.

KELLY - On Saturday, 15th February 1997, peacefully in hospital, Cocons for Cafe Litwards) aged 85 years, beloved wife of the late Fattick Michael Eally, FECS, formanty of Wimbjedon and Cambridge, much loved and loving mother, genntmother and great-grandmother. Requiem Mass at Girton College Chapel, Cambridge at 11.30 am on Monday, 24th February, (All enquiries to Messrs Ginns and Guttaridge, Lukester, tel: 0116 251 6117).

ICHICHTS - Eric quietly on 16th February in Bristol. Deady loved husband, lather and grandfather. Frivate cremation followed by Service of Thanksgiving at Rediend Fark United Reformed Church, Whiteladdes Rood, Reistol, at 2.30 pm on 25th February. Family Howers only.

LAMBERT - Peacefully on 12 February at Woodhayes numing home in Easter, aged nearly 92, Carce Many Lam-bert, elder daughter of 1st Viscount Lambert. Dearly beloved sister, ann, great-aunt and great-great-edit. Engulies Le Roy (01392) 55535.

INDEER - On 16th Sebruary 1977 pencefully at his home Newlin. Deriving husband of Mangaret, dearly loved father of Stephen and Richard, father-in-law of Jane and Mei, proud gambja of David, Emma, Nick, jonathan, Rechy and Andrew. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service on Friday 28th February at 2.30 pm at Holmbury St Mary Church, Pamily Howers only please, memorial donations in memory of Newlile for Cancer Care. Enquiries please to (01304) 882266.

LODGE - Six Thomas Lodge FECE, FRC2, FRC3, suddenly in London on 16th February 1997. Such lowed father of Creenagh and Anton and hasband of the late Allean. Requiem Miss at Our Lady of Victories Church, Kamsingson, High Street on Monday 24th February 1997 as 1230 pm and efterwards at The Belvedere, Holland Fark. Interment will take place privately on Tesskay 25th February. Family flowers only to Chelsea Funcai Directors, 2602 Pulbam Read, London SW10 9EL, cel: (0171) 352-0008.

MacCIMRACH - Major Robert
Poter, late 13th Duke of
Commander's Own Lauceau,
peccatulty on 18th January
1997, formenty of Taymour
Farm, Bourton-on-the-Water,
aged 81 years. Leving
handshand of the late Diams
and a much loved father of
Robert, Martin and
Charlotte, Puneral has taken
place. Dousdons in memory
of Peter MacCurrach for St
Janes' Church, Claptom-onthe-Hill may be sent to W.J.
Wright, Funeral Director,
Well Lune, Stow-on-theWold, GL54 1DG.

MANY - Gilbert Palmer peacefully on 15th February aged 74 or Fort Mecquarie, 155W. Hesthand for more than 30 years each to Marion (Molly) died 1962 and Youns, who survives him. Fether of Carol and Alistah-and grandfather to Ellie, 122y, jenuifer and Spean.

MORRIS - On 14th February
1997 aged 84, Enth, adored
wife of Christopher, deanly
loved mother of Paul and
Sallie, and devoted
geardmother. Crumation at
Oxford Crematerium on 25th
February at 11 am. Family
flowers to F.W. Paine, 61
Greyhound Road,
Hammesshaith, London Wé
SNH. A Service of
Thanksgiving at St George's
Church, Hanover Square,
London Wi to be manounced
later.

PANITZA - Famela Helen died pencefully on February 17th. Beloved mother of Demeta, Marina and Nicholas. Cremation will be private and a Memocial Service will

RAWDON BRIGGS - Esther MEE, widow of the late Brigadiar Rawdon Briggs CSE DSO MC Rayal Engineers, on 15th February 1997 in her 93rd year peacefully at Ridgeway Emout, Oxted Late of the Mill House, Shepoth, Cambridgeshire. Mother of Elizabeth and Christabel, grandmother and greatgrandmother. Funeral private, Ramily Howers only. smissions - Joyce Badley (Joy.) on 15th February aged 92 years peacefully at home with her family and friends. Funeral Service Wonday 24th February Chilteras Cremstorkim, Amerikam at 3 pm. Flowers and all equiries to James Feddis Ltd., tek (01923) 772013.

SMITH - Professor Colin on 16th February after a short illness. Marvellous husband to Ruth and Eather to Jennie, Becca and Joss. Funeral Service at 4 pm on Monday 24th February at Cambridge Cermatorium. Flowers, or dopations to "Cambridge Camour Research", to Harry Williams & Sons, 7 Victure, Park, Cambridge CB4 3EJ. A Messorial Service will sho be held later.

STOCKS - Miss Katharine Mary (Mollie) aged 85 of Sherwood, Nortingham, previously of Tunbridge Wells, peacafully in ker sleep 17th February 1997.

STONE - Peter of Chariton
Kings, loving husband of
Felicity and proud-father of
Zillab and Corne, died
peacefully on February 15th.
Service at St Matthew's
Church, Cheltenham on
Friday 21st February at 3pm.
No flowers but domations to
Als memory for Charities to
"Trust Fund of Cheltenham
North Entry Club" of Sellen
Smith & Co., 74 Franthury
Road, Cheltenham GL52 2DJ. THEFIE - On 12th Rebrussy 1997 pencefully at Maddatone Hespital Marie, Lady Tempis, widow of Str Richard Tempie Bart USO. Funeral at Vinters Fark Crematorium Maddatone.

Crematorium, Maidstone Kent, at 10 am today Wednesday 19th February

(0181) 363-3221.

Willsöll - J.H.T. (Jack) on February 16th peacetrilly at home. Dearly loved, and gently missed by his wife Anne, james and Stephen, their hundles and his miny friends. Service of Thanksgiving at St. Fewer's Church, Budleigh Saltenton on Tuesday February 25th at 12 noon. No flowers by request, donntions in heu fi desired to Hospiscare cfo Palment Punntal Service, 45: High Street, Budleigh Saltenton, Dwon, EFF 6LF. Salienton, Devon, EEP G.F.
WINCKWORTH - Archibald
Norman (Archie) of
Donchideock, Erster, passed
sway on February 11th
1997. Stother of Douglas
and brother-in-law of
Frances, Fundan Service at
Dunchideock Parish Chunch
on Turnday February 25th at
11 zm followed by intermetal
there. Floral tributes if
desired or denations if
preferred for Dunchideock
Chunch ob Le Roy Fundan
Service, 10 Alphington Road,
hysten.

MEMORIAL SERVICES LHEDSAY - Jean Chivin.
A Service of Thankspiving for the life of Mrs Jean Lindsay, former fellow in History, will be held in the College Chapel at Girton College, Cambridge on Serveday, let Hanch at 12 noon. Any enquiries to the Mistrees's Secretary, (01223) 338951.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES WELLS - John Gerard Wells
Capt. CER. DSC. Royal Navy
on February 16th at home
after a short illness, Mindloved husband of DJ, father
to Carlstopher and Anton
and grandfather. Private
Crewnation. Thanksgiving
Setvice at St Mary's Church
Lies at 11.30 am Thusday
13th March. Donations to
Boyal British Legion. ELIGT - Brian, A Thunksgiving Service will take place on Tuesday, 25th March 12.30 pm at St Thomas Moore Catholic Church; Harriey Wintney and afterwards at

Wintney and after B.W. Cricket Ciph. IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE:

NORDAN LAWRENCE - (Bill), 19th February 1991, in Italy. Er in Artadia ego. With my love as always, Mary. ROBERTS - Paul Aubrey die 3rd February 1996. In on hearts you will always stay loved and remembers leved and remembered everyday and especially today your 50th Birthday four leving wife Triaky, designed of Adam and Pauls eldest son of Rosensay an Aubrey, brother of Davis Stephen and Shaon.

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CAPTAIN JOHN WELLS

Captain John Wells, CBE, DSC, naval historian, died on February 16 aged 81. He was born on September 22, 1915.

ohn Wells's principal historical work. An Illustrated Social History of the Royal Navy 1870-1982. skilfully illuminates the Navy's inner soul, from the bleak, spit-andpolish discipline of the Victorian lower deck to the comradeship and technical ingenuity of the Falklands campaign. Published in 1994 with many rare archive photographs, it made an important and much-needed contribution to the sociology of "Jolly Jack Tar" and his officers from the hammock to the microchip.

John Gerard Wells could count three admirals in his immediate ancestry. His great grandfather, Vice-Admiral Thomas Wells, was a canopy bearer at Nelson's funeral.

Joining Dartmouth in 1929 at the age of 13, he earned a reputation as a sportsman, subsequently boxing and playing rugby for the Navy. During his first tours of sea duty he served in the Royal Yacht Victoria and Albert and in the destroyer Impulsive, taking part in protecting British interests during the Spanish Civil War.

In August 1939 he was second-incommand of the destroyer Acheron when it escorted the British Expeditionary-Force to France and then landed troops in Norway. Despite the desper-ate situation, training of the seed-corn had to go on, and Wells was next selected to specialise in gunnery, joining the Gunnery School at Portsmouth in May 1940.

His course turned out to be more than chalk-and-talk in the classroom. After two weeks the whole class was ordered to proceed to the Dunkirk beaches to organise the evacuation of weary soldiers. When orders came through to retire there were no boats,

so Wells swam off to a minesweeper. A week later, he took command of the small Dutch coaster Pascholl, armed with one Lewis machinegun and the White Ensign, and sailed for St Valery. The aim was to try to embark the 51st (Highland) Division, which had fought its way back from the Saar front - where it had been at the outset of the German Blitzkrieg - more than 200 miles to the Channel coast. It was the Highland Division's fate to pass almost in its entirety into captivity but Wells and Pascholl took off several hundred British and French artillerymen from the village of Veules les Roses, four miles to the east of St Valery. In spite of intense shelling and divebombing, Pascholl escaped unscathed, and Wells was awarded the

David Crichton,

died on January 22 aged

82. He was born on July

31, 1914.

DAVID CRICHTON'S first

choice of career, as a journal-

ist, was brought to a halt by

the outbreak of the Second

World War, his second, as a

diplomat, was ruined by polio,

which he caught at the height

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DSC for his gallantry and resource during the evacuations.

His class at the Gunnery School received further practical tuition when it was ordered to capture the French battleship Courbet in Portsmouth Dockyard, the French being at that time uncertain as to whom they owed allegiance. Then, during an invasion scare, the class manned one of the defensive Portsmouth forts. Wells then served on the staff of the school until his appointment, in October 1941, as gunnery officer of the light cruiser Phoebe. With her 5.25 inch dualpurpose guns, Phoebe took part in many of the furious actions of the Mediterranean campaign, notably the costly but vital Malta convoy, Operation Pedestal, in August 1942.

Later she was damaged by a torpedo off West Africa and went to America for repairs. On return, Phoebe was engaged in operations to capture the Aegean islands of Kos and Leros, then Haiphong to Saigon, returned home

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him. Yet in the course of his

life he was to travel the world,

from Alexandria to Santiago.

David George Crichton was

the eldest of five children of Sir

George Crichton, middle son

of the Earl of Erne. David

Crichton was heir to the

Educated at Eton, he decid-

present earl for many years:

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from Belgrade to La Paz.

DAVID CRICHTON

world trip which took him across Siberia by train and

down the Yangtse by boat. He

then joined the Reading Eve-

ning Post as a reporter and

worked in London, Manches-

ter and Paris for The Daily

Telegraph, Daily Sketch and

ioined the Derbyshire Yeo-

At the outbreak of war he

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the Manchester Guardian.

played an important role in quelling a Greek naval mutiny in Alexandria.

After nearly three years in action, Wells returned briefly to the Gunnery School and then to the cruiser Swiftsure, which became the first major warship into Hong Kong after VJ-Day. An early task there was to bring relief to more than a thousand women and children interned in Stanley prison.

Wells was the first postwar battery commander of the resuscitated RN Field Gun Competition at Olympia; his subsequent tours took him to the Naval Mission in Athens and to sea in the cruiser Kenva. Promoted commander in 1949, he was posted first to the Admiralty and then in 1953 to the light fleet carrier Warrior as second-in-

command. Warrior took part in the closing stages of the Korean War and, after evacuating Vietnamese refugees from

was delayed in 1941 when he

caught pneumonia. As a result

he was separated from his

regiment, but he followed via

the Cape on the Queen Mary

and soon found his journalis-

tic skills in demand when he

was made a public relations

officer for the Army in the

In 1942 he found himself

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Western Desert.

of the Suez crisis in Alexandria ed on leaving school to set off manry but his departure with working with an old friend and which almost crippled on an ambitious round-the the regiment for North Africa from The Daily Telegraph.

via South Africa. Wells kept himself fit; one of his frowsty midshipmen has a memory of emerging onto the flight deck in the early tropic dawn to see him. Greek-godlike in singlet and shorts, doubling round and round. "yet

hardly breaking sweat".

Promoted captain in 1955, Wells went to the Canadian Defence College, the Admiralty and then to command the destroyer Dainty, based in Malta. Two further commands, the gunnery school HMS Excellent and the guided missile destroyer Kent, took him to the top of the captain's list and retirement in 1964, his excellent service being recognised by appointment as CBE.

Joining Highland Tourist Cairngorm Development as a project manager, he supervised the £3million construction of the initial Avienne skiing centre, completed in 1966. He then spent four years with Clarkson Holidays, inspecting the standards of some 200 Mediterranean hotels, then moved to a firm of quantity surveyors for whom he conducted a tourism survey of Sudan and the Blue and White Niles. Then followed management of a Mediterranean barge and container company and, finally, a London business services enterprise.

Now aged 65, he was asked to undertake the writing of his first book. the history of the naval gunnery school on Whale Island in Portsmouth. The resulting book, Whaley - the Story of HMS Excellent 1830-1980, was published in 1980. He was also asked to be the Research Historian for the Preservation Trust that had been set up to preserve Britain's first ironclad warship, the Warrior, which with Victory and Mary Rose, has become one of the great historic warship attractions in the Portsmouth Heritage area.

His second book, a detailed and extensively illustrated copy of Warrior's career and restoration, The Immortal Warrior - Britain's First and Last Battleship, appeared in 1987 and became a prizewinner.

In 1983 he founded the Warrior Assocation, the supporters' club, and had been its chairman since 1985. In August 1995 he was one of a select group of 150 naval veterans who visited the Far East for the 50th anniversary of VJ-Day, leading the remembrance services, parades and marches in Singapore, Australia and Hong Kong.

John Wells played most sports, but he and his wife shared a great love for sailing, both racing and subsequently cruising at home and in the Mediterranean as members of the Royal Cruising

He is survived by his wife Diana whom he married in 1947, and their

L. Marsland Gander, when

the Greek island of Leros

suffered a terrifying German

air bombardment. The two

men survived in appalling

conditions for several days in

bombed-out buildings before

being rescued at the last

minute by a British destrover.

Crichton was mentioned in

Perhaps as a result of this

experience Crichton decided at

the end of the war that

journalism was a young man's

profession, and he opted for

the Foreign Office as a more

suitable career for a family

man. He served his first post

in Belgrade, but it was in

Alexandria that his career

almost ended with an attack of

polio in 1956. He was flown

dent Nasser.

Monaco.

dispatches for this episode.

MARJORIE REYNOLDS

Marjorie Reynolds, American screen actress died on February laged 75. She was born on August 12, 1921.

MAKING her screen debut as a toddler, Marjorie Reynolds was one of the few child actresses to make a relatively painless transition to adult roles. Of the many films she made, it was Holiday Inn (1942) which really impressed her charms upon the American public, and particularly that sentimental scene in which a pipe-smoking Bing Crosby croons White Christmas to her over the top of a grand piano.

Starring Fred Astaire as well as Crosby. Holiday Inn was made in 1942, when America had just entered the war. Paramount, uncertain of the war's effect on the box office (in fact audience numbers greatly increased), agreed to make the film only if the salaries involved for the film's two stars were offset by economies made on the little-known leading lady, Marjorie Reynolds. The plot was inconsequential. It was the ease with which Reynolds, Astaire and Crosby sang, danced and romanced their way through the all-new Irving Berlin score that made it big box office.

Mariorie Goodspeed, as she began her life, was born in Buhl, Idaho, and moved to Los Angeles with the family when she was still a baby. In 1923 she made her screen debut in the silent film Scaramouche. Educated at the Los Angeles High School, she carried on making films. As an ingenue she was courted by a variety of cowboy stars - Tex Ritter, Buck Jones - and almost frightened to death in several Boris Karloff melodramas.

Billed first as Goodspeed then as Mariorie Moore, she became Marjorie Reynolds only in 1936 when she married became a familiar face in American living rooms. a production assistant named Jack Reynolds. At the same time she dyed her brown hair

blonde and started landing better roles, particularly in Paramount productions. After Holiday Inn had made her a favourite with the public, she was cast opposite Ray Milland in the taut Fritz Lang thriller Ministry of Fear (1944). Reynolds played the sister of a Nazi spy who, in a memorably pitch-black scene, shoots her brother dead.

Her comic gifts were seen to advantage in bedroom farces and musicals. Then, after several more good years, her career went flat in the late 1940s, and she had largely drifted back to B-movies by the time a popular television comedy, The Life of Riley, was launched. Playing Peg Riley from 1953 to 1958, Reynolds

During her starring years,

Reynolds had wisely invested her capital in an apartment block in Beverly Hills. In retirement, no longer blonde (she reverted to brown hair with an Indira Gandhi streak) she still looked trim, thanks to an enthusiasm for golf, and fit to face the cameras. Occasionally she did face them, playing grandmothers in television commercials. But with Holiday Inn being reshown on television as often as it is, she remained fixed in most people's memories as an unwaveringly fresh-faced, light-

looted twenty-year-old. Her first marriage, by which she had one daughter who survives her, ended in divorce. Her second, lasting 32 years, was to a film editor named John Haffen, who died



PROFESSOR VERNON JOYCE

Vernon Joyce. entomologist and Professor of Bioaeronautics at Cranfield University, died on January 14 aged 82. He was born on May 29, 1914.

VERNON JOYCE was an outstanding scientist with a rare ability to understand and bring together different scientific disciplines to tackle the problems of insect control and crop protection

He was one of the first to appreciate the importance of understanding the whole ecosystem to ensure that methods of control were applied in an efficient and environmentally friendly way. This led him to make important contributions to both the theory and early application of what became known as integrated pest management, a key factor in the security of economically important crops and food supply, particularly in under-

developed countries. Vernon Joyce was born in Camberwell, south London, and won a scholarship to Bedford School, which he attended from 1924 to 1932. From there he moved to Bangor University. After a brief spell as a

out on a South African aircraft by special permission of Presiresearch entomologist, he ioined the Territorial Army on He later served in La Paz, the outbreak of war as a Santiago, and Miami. He was motorcycle dispatch rider and appointed LVO in 1968. His served in France, Palestine, last posting was as Consul General in Nice and Her Egypt and the Western Desert. In the later years of the Majesty's Representative in war he was relieved from active service to investigate the Crichton was as widely read locust situation, under a proas he was travelled, with a gramme which had been set sharp intelligence and selfup to support food supply for depreciating sense of humour. He was a lifelong supporter of the allied troops and local population in North Africa and the Middle East.

the underdog, and of Reading Football Club. After the war, he was ap-Crichton's first wife, Joan pointed Government Ento-(always known as Susie). mologist, and then Director of whom he married in 1941, was Agricultural Research in Sukilled in 1992 in a car crash in dan. His major responsibilities were the protection of which Crichton's sister also died. Two years later he crops, particularly cotton, married Betty. He is survived against insect infestation, and by her and by a daughter and the organisation and execua son of his first marriage. tion of research into the control of the desert locust which was causing devastation across Sudan and beyond; it was in the latter field that he first gained worldwide recog-

In 1957 he was appointed deputy director, and later director of the Desert Locust Survey, under the East African High Commission, with its headquarters in Kenya. He remained as director when, in

1962, this organisation became the Desert Locust Control Organisation for Eastern Africa, established by international convention between the countries of Eastern Africa and based in Ethiopia, and he

held this position until 1967. He served on a number of panels of experts organised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations. He was a delegate at many FAO meetings, representing at various times the Governments of Kenya, Sudan, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda and the UK.

The strategy for desert locust control developed by Joyce and his colleagues during this period led to the elimination of economically significant locust populations from Eastern Africa by 1962 and made an important contribution to the following recession of the plague which had seasonally affected much of Africa for generations.

In 1967 Joyce was invited to join the Swiss pharmaceutical and agrochemical company

develop his work on aviation "search and strike" techniques for the control of insect pests. Large-scale projects were undertaken in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sudan, Canada and the United Kingdom for the control of a wide variety of pests. In 1972 Joyce founded the Agricultural Aviation Re-search Unit (AARU) at the ogy (now Cranfield Univer-sity), initially funded Cranfield Institute of Technol-Geigy and later incorporated into the university as the International Centre for the Application of Pesticides, where he was appointed Professor of Bio-aeronautics.

CIBA. later CIBA-Geigv. to

During this time he formed fruitful collaborations with meteorologists, physicists and biologists to gain a more detailed knowledge of the flight potential and behaviour of insects and hence a greater understanding of their dispersal patterns that could provide new opportunities for the control of insect populations. He also recognised the potential of ground and airborne radar to observe locusts and other insects in flight, and played an important role in promoting the emerging discipline of radar entomology as the key to a

al Meteorological Society and the Association of Applied

daughter and son.

A PEER. LORD WEARDALE MISTAKEN FOR MR. ASQUITH.

A violent attack was made on Lord Weardale at Euston Station just before 10 o'clock yesterday morning. His assailant was a young woman armed with a dog-whip, who apparently mistook him for the Prime Minister, Lord Weardale, who was accompamied by Lady Weardale, was about to enter the special train which was to convey the guests to Althorp Park for the wedding of Lady Delia Spencer, Lord Spencer's daughter. He was struck violently on the head from behind, the blows causing him to stumble and fail. The woman, who refused her name, was later charged at the Police Court, and remanded.

when the young woman rushed at him. The first blow knocked his hat off, and further blows caused him to fall. The suffragist was immediately seized by members of the London and North-Western Railway Police.
Later, before Mr. Bros. at Clerkenwell

Police Court. Lord Weardale's assailant was charged. She still declined to give her name and intimated that she wished to say nothing. Lord Weardale said that he was struck on ON THIS DAY

February 19, 1914 **类型加强**

Lord Weardale, bound for a big wedding at Althorp Park, was attacked at Euston Station by a suffragist, who, apparently having mistaken him for H.H. Asquith, the Prime Minister, set about him with a dog whip.

the top of the head very violently. He heard nothing said and did not see who was striking him. He was assailed from behind. On being helped up he found the defendant held by a railway official. She was a stranger to him. The whip, a perfectly new one, was handed to him by the officer. "I might add." Lord Weardale concluded, "that I, with Lord Curzon, am a joint president of the Anti-Suffragist Society*.

Mr. Bros (to the defendant). - Would you like to ask the witness any questions?
The defendant. — I don't wish to speak. Detective Johnson, of the Railway Police, said he saw Lord Weardale alight from a

defendant slashed at him with the whip. Lord Weardale stumbled and he assisted him. He then arrested the woman. She said, "I meant to give him a good thrashing. You don't know what he has done for us". The prisoner was remanded.

motor-car and walk towards the train. The

The case was again mentioned in the afternoon when Mr. Marshall, a solicitor, stated that he appeared on behalf of the defendant's friends. He was prepared to give her name and address, and also an explanation as to why the assault was committed. This lady, holding very strong views about the treatment of women in prison, mistook Lord Weardale for Mr. Asquith, whom she considered was responsible for that treatment, and had thereupon assaulted him. At the proper time he would be instructed to put forward an apology for what she had done. He asked whether on the name and address being given the magistrate would grant bail. Mr. Bros. — I don't propose to grant bail. The act seemed the act of a lunatic. I have remanded her to inquire into the state of her

Mr Marshall. - Would you like her name Mr. Bros. - I don't want to know that: I only want to know if she is insane.

هكذا من رلامل

better understanding of insect migration.

He retired from Cranfield in 1981 to live in Berriew, Powys. For many years he remained active in the scientific community, participating in courses at Cranfield and being much in demand to attend and lecture at international conferences. He was a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society, which he served as vicepresident from 1980 to 1982, and a member of the Royal Aeronautical Society, the Roy

Biologists. His younger daughter died in 1992, but he is survived by his wife Harriet, whom he married in 1948, and by a

SUFFRAGIST ASSAULT ON

Lord Weardale had just alighted from his motor-car and was walking towards the train

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BRENDA

MADDOX

governors' seminar the morning after the Campaign for Freedom of Information awards. My head was throbbing with cases of the national foodness for pretending that something is open when it is really shut. Like the BBC's mind on the digital future.

We had been invited - assorted people with an interest in broadcasting, with the correct sprinkling of ethnic dress and regional representation — to participate in an exercise in "accountability". The BBC was to explain its proposals and then we could ... er, what? A 12-year-old could have spotted the

loopholes in the BBC's careful wording. We were there because the BBC is obliged "to listen to the public's views". "The views submitted will help to influence our final decision." Comments are sought on "the content, mixture and range of services" the BBC is proposing.

Just how, for example, can its new digital 24-hour news service be made "distinctive"? Nothing about "whether", in other words; only about "how". Even as we met, the consultation document outlining the channels was being printed.

That was just as well because devastating criticism then flew from all sides to say that the BBC is on the wrong track. BBC management were ac-

cused of starving present programmes, such as Question Time, to pour resources into an uncertain and unknowable future. They

were told that digital television as a common form of viewing may be 20 years off and that the desire for multichannel choice, apart from sport and movie channels, is unproven. They were advised to concentrate on problems that affect the whole audience now: the drift of sport away from the BBC. the coming threat to its audiences of the new terrestrial Channel 5, the apparent inability

to find anybody to head BBC drama ...
I cannot fault the BBC's wish to develop new digital services - so long as this is done slowly. It seems quite right to work on new channels, to be available free to any licencefee payer who may in future wish to invest in the extra equipment needed to receive them. Wider screens, clearer pictures, a round-theclock news channel and add-on extras recipes, lessons, repeat showings of programmes shown on BBCl and BBC2 all may be very nice to have.

Where I part company with the plans — sorry, the proposed plans — is the point where they assume that the BBC must develop new thematic, commercial channels for the world market. I don't like these, for two reasons. They spoil the BBC's reputation as a non-commercial service. And they appear to be subsidised by the money we, the licence payers, have contributed in is ask the BBC not to invite suggestion compulsory fees — a financial cushion that matters on which its mind is made up.

enjoy. The BBC insists that these commercial channels, such as those on the Continent paid for by subscription or advertising, cost the licence-fee payer absolutely nothing. It swears that, far from being cross-subsidised by the licence fee, these channels pay the domestic BBC the full market rate for any programmes they take. It declares that the accounting procedures used make the prices paid clear and transparent.

Transparent to whom? Only to the BBC's hired accountants. They report their find-ings to the governors. And will the figures be published? "We will publish what it is appropriate to publish" is the reply.

But wait. How can any programme made or commissioned by the domestic BBC be anything other than subsidised by the vast resources accumulated by the ELS billion a year received in licence fees? What is worse. the BBC's frenzied pursuit of commercial

ventures obscures the plain truth that such revenue will never amount to anything more than pin money for the BBC. It will never replace, or even help to lower, the licence fee. And it obscures the fee's virtue as the source of the respect for what is now called the BBC's "brand name".

Fair play would seem to require that the BBC's accounting must DOX

be not only open but seen to be open. A good start would be to reveal what it pays Camelot for televising the National Lottery.

The public would like to know. Many think

that Camelot should pay the BBC for this free publicity. The BBC says its lips are sealed by "commercial confidentiality". A familiar excuse, as Sir Richard Scott noted last week, used within government and quasi-governmental bodies, for keeping secret information that it is in the public

hat lies hidden under the BBC's Camelot cloak? My guess is shame. The BBC forks out this secret sum for the right to broadcast a programme that has nothing distinctive about it except the capacity to snare an easy 12 or more million viewers. In its defence, the BBC points out that the lottery contract goes out to competitive tender and that next time round (maybe this autumn: the length of the existing contract is another secret) the BBC could be disadvantaged by letting its competitors know the amount of its bid.

But the size of the ITV franchise bids is made public once the winners are declared. Why shouldn't the BBC gamble, since the money comes out of our pockets? If we had a Freedom of Information Act, we might be able to find out. Until such day, all we can do is ask the BBC not to invite suggestions on

Marr goes for Mail features

Cholipsion 1350

IN HIS latest quest for success at The Independent, the paper's Editor, Andrew Marr, raiding the Daily Mail's features department. The Editor has hired Deborah Ross, one of the paper's highest-paid feature writers, and Sam Taylor, a commissioning edi-

This change of attitude is interesting. When Marr first took the Editor's chair last year, he was determined to dispense with the traditional concept of leading on hardnews stories and started devoting his front page to reviews of art exhibitions and comment pieces while decrying the Mail for "dirty raincoat journalism". The Mail's recent rise in circulation could have changed his mind.

Family planning

THE producers of Channel 5's soap, Family Affairs, were taking no chances when cast-ing the character of Bradley, the pet cat who belongs to the Harts, the programme's central family. Just in case the real-life moggie who plays



Marr. Mail-chasing

Bradley should ever get flat-tened by a bus, the directors plumped for an animal that was black, with no distinguishing features. "We bad to make sure he was totally replaceable," an insider says. In a separate development, Channel 5, which has insisted

that its soap will eschew the kind of lesbian kiss, body-under-the-patio sensationalism common in other mainstream soaps, has let slip that one of the principal characters will be killed off within four weeks of launch. A C5 insider says: "It is a tragic death, but it is organic to the plot." So that's all right, then.

Crossing Chryss

THE BBC producer Peter Swain had a shock in Ireland while shooting Branded, a documentary series. Swain was filming Tony O'Reilly, newspaper magnate, and his wife, Chryss, as they hosted a swanky event at Leopardstown; guests included Lord Callaghan of Cardiff and Jean Kennedy-Smith. O'Reilly agreed to be filmed with his horse, Woodhorough, before it took part in the big event of the day, the Phoenix Stakes. The shoot was abruptly terminated by his wife, however, who claimed that filming a horse before a race brings bad luck. As it happened, Wood-borough did not win, and as

Swain dashed to the winner's enclosure he bumped into an irate Mrs O, who pointed an aggressive finger and snarled. You, it's all your fault." Her husband gave an embarrassed look skywards.

 Runtours swirl around Fleet Street about the destiny of Ian Monk, the former deputy editor of The Express, who was last week spotted having a cosy chat with the power-hungry Bridget Rowe. the managing director of The People and the Sunday Mirror, who last week assumed editorial control of the latter after squeezing out Amanda Platell, the acting Editor.



Amanda de Cadenet: listed

World women IT WAS only a matter of time.

before September Films, producers of the ITV series Hollywood Women, Hollywood Men, Hollywood etc, turned their attentions to Blighty. The company has won a commission to make UK Women, a four-part prime-time series. behind the controversial Hollywood Lovers, the programme promises to include interviews with an eclectic mix

Made by the same team of female celebrities and "ordithought to include everyone from Joan Bakewell and Amanda de Cadenet, to Dame Barbara Cartland, Jemima Khan (née Goldsmith), Paula Yates and Nicola Horlick.

• LORD HOLLICK, the socialist millionaire and chief executive of United News and Media, boosted his not inconsiderable fortune last week after England's 1-0 defeat at Wembley. Hollick dejeat at wentue. It who attended the game as a guest of Greg Dyke, Pearson TV's footy-mad boss, won a sweepstake held by the 12 guests at the table. He pocketed a princely EZZ.

Ouite contrary

MAIRE Geoghegan-Quinn, the first woman minister in Irish history, quit politics in a fury over media intrusion in her family life. She claimed that press and broadcast coverage of her son's expulsion from his West of Ireland boarding school was the final straw. A week later, however, she emerged in the employ of ... er, the media.

Mrs Geoghegan-Quinn is to write a weekly political column for The Irish Times and for two weeks will host one of Ireland's most successful phone in radio programmes. RTE's Liveline is renary women". The producers' nowned for the niggling wish-list of interviewees is personal questions it asks its

Burkitt: thrashing things out

Under an influence

THE advertising industry is staging a timely political debate at the House of Commons on March 24 at which the potentially alarming motion "Advertising is more influential than politics" will be discussed.

The debate will be thrashed out between two senior industry players — Stephen Carter, managing director of J Walter Thompson, and Hugh Burkitt, chairman of Court Burkitt & Co - and two MPs, Peter Bottomley and Tony Banks, both of whom have yet to confirm, in front of a gallery of 100 advertisers, agency representatives, MPs and civil servants.

Mr Carter, who will be speaking for the motion, says: "My opinion is that advertising is more influential, which is obviously a sad reflection on politics today," while Mr Burkitt says: "Advertising reflects society rather than shapes it. I like to think I have helped

to sell a few boxes of things, but I

haven't affected society at all.

ADLAND has a starring role in a weekend of TV programmes dedicated to stress in the workplace. EBN, the cable and satellite channel, has homed in on the industry for its Insider's Guide to Business slot next Saturday. The agency under scrutiny is Bates

Dorland, where creative executives evidently enjoy regular games of table tennis to clear their minds. They can "de stress" in the "Egg", a room full of all forms of diverting stimulants, from video games to CDs.

Despite the creative director's assertions that advertising is "a very stressful business" where "9-5 means 9pm to 5am", the unfortunate abiding mem-

ory from the programme is of an art director enjoying a game of table ten-nis and admitting. "All my mates think I work in a playground." Maria Care

A QUESTION mark was placed over the future of small agency brands this week when the Cordiant-owned K Advertising was merged with its sister shop, Saatchi & Saatchi. The agency last year notched up billings of only £30 million, placing it outside the top 30 ranking of advertising companies. The merger means that five of K's 39

employees are made redundant, along with one Saatchi executive. It also means that Saatchi inherits instant client clashes between its own Norwich Union and Castlemaine XXXX business and K's Commercial Union and Carlsberg accounts.

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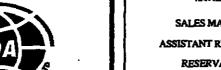
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Why we must save the Gang On Four



Under threat? Today presenters, from the left, James Naughtie, Anna Ford, John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor. The programme faces a review

Michael Gove champions the cause of BBC Radio 4's embattled Today programme

ohn Humphrys should beware the dangers of becoming forever Young. Next week, the Today presenter will exchange the cockpit of Studio 4A for the easy chair of the JY prog.. While Jimmy Young is away, Humphrys will juggle the Matt Monro LPs, recipes and interviews on Radio 2's midmorning show.

The newsman's holiday should present no problem for an accomplished broadcaster who combines ubiquity with authority. But the skill with which Humphrys will undoubtedly fill Young's slippers could, unwittingly, strengthen the hand of those anxious to reform the shows on which Humphrys's reputation rests.

The BBC has announced its intention to review its news and current affairs output after the election and, as with strained, however, sions have been reached and leaked well before the process has begun. The makers of Newsnight and Today have been singled out, like intellectuals in the Cultural Revolution, as ripe for reeducation.

The names of Humphrys and James Naughtie have been whispered in connection with complaints about "verbal punch-ups" and "alienating arguments". Comparisons with the more "accessible" approach to news of Radio 5 Live have been made inside the corporation by the Red Guards. Too practised a display on Radio 2 by Humphrys might see the same anonymous managers suggest that he had

and the time had come for new voices to introduce a "fresher" Today, less tied to the "Westminster agenda".

I do not have access to the market research, which the BBC's managers take as their authority for contemplating change, but I do have something denied to most of those who presume to dictate Today's future - recent experi-ence of working on the programme.

For years now, BBC managers have tried to free Today from the tyranny of the ten-

vous with Michael

Heseltine". Most Its rivals editors . I knew would happily have broadened should the programme's set their range of interviewees. They were consights imagination but by a commitment to leader

professionalism. Whatever the attractions of straying away from SWI, it would its breakfast show is one of have been a betrayal of the audience to neglect the issues that mattered and the individuals who influenced them. This Monday morning it was the censure debate on Douglas Hogg which dominated the front page of serious newspapers and it was on Today that Mr Hogg mounted his defence. That is what the audi-

ence has come to expect. Today's audience is not short of choices. No segment of the radio market is as fiercely contested as breakfast. Yet six million continue to choose

They

seemed

to think

they were

coming to a

real circus'

Today every week, because it Radio 5 Live's audience than is treats them like adults and normal for the BBC is certainenought to follow an argument and serious enough to want to.

The BBC management, though, does not want only to attract more men than anyone else, it wants youth. An anonymous spokesman, presenting a justification for the review, told The Daily Telegraph: We have launched Radio 5 Live to appeal to that market young males more, but we still feel we are missing out on younger audiences

and on the Cl, C2 groups." Comparisons with Radio 5 Live are instructive, but perhaps not in a way which is congenial to those who want to meet a nonexistent challenge and make an unnecessary change. Even though it

was marketed as "Radio Bloke" and many excellent programmes, Radio 5 Live is nowhere near as successful as Today; not just in attracting ministers who wish to sound off but also those who are off to the Ministry of Sound.

Last autumn, before Radio 5 Live benefited from the arrival of the former Today Editor Roger Mosey, its breakfast show had an average audience at any one time of 300,000. Today, during the same period, attracted two million listeners between 7.10 and 8. A greater proportion of

ers of *Today*. Those who undermine them do democdrawn from the nonracy a disservice. metropolitan, under-45 pool in

which Today is now being en-

couraged to fish. But mixing

relatives and absolutes is as

dangerous as mixing Absoluts

Given that Today has 600

per cent of Radio 5 Live's

audience at breakfast means

that even though a smaller

proportion of Today's audi-

ence is young and provincial,

in absolute terms it still reaches far more "blokes"

than the station set up for

them. The average twentyish

plasterer in Redditch, in so far

as he exists, actually prefers Jim Naughtie to the laddish

alternative a wrist-twist away.

market research deployed by

the BBC's briefers may be

used to suggest that "audi-ences shrink from the

argumentative approach" of Naughtie and Humphrys, but

the listeners 1 encountered on

the road for Today took quite

Humphrys and Naughtie

are heroes. If anything, they

weren't aggressive enough for

the Today audience. Of course, the public were occasionally

exasperated by what they heard. It was, however, the

equivocation of politicians

who took refuge in statistics even flimsier than broadcast

market research which en-

raged listeners, not attempts

by the interviewer to get to the

point. Given the failure of so

many of our legislators prop-

erly to hold the executive to

account that responsibility in-

creasingly falls on the present-

the opposite view.

It is not surprising why. The

and vermouth.

They also underestimate an audience that knows power is wielded in Westminster and wants to see it examined there, instead of having politics viewed through the wrong end of the telescope in the name of provincial correctness.

Rather than Today imitating new blokes on the block, its rivals should set their sights on the market leader. In appointing Roger Mosey to run Radio 5 Live, the BBC has tacitly admitted as much. Instead of embracing a Cultural Revolution, the BBC should learn from Humphrys, Naughtie, MacGregor and Ford - the Gang on 4.

Michael Gave was a reporter on the Today programme from July 1994 to January 1996

Mail campaign mirrors Foot case

Bouquets and brickbats for Dacre crusade

There is no point starting a contro-versial newspaper campaign unless it is pursued with determination and vigour. That is exactly what Paul Dacre. Editor of the Daily Mail, has been doing since he published a front page last Friday - as memorable as The Guardian's A Liar and a Cheat of last year - accusing five men of being "Murderers". Let them sue us if we are wrong, he declared

Justice had been effectively neutered after the murder of Stephen Lawrence, the Mail declared next day. The police were frustrated, the courts helpless, and a gang of evil and moronic thugs had got away with murder. A special page of letters yesterday showed that Daere's campaign had won overwhelming support from his readers.

His campaign has already won powerful critics. Lord Donaldson of Lymington, the former Master of the Rolls, accused the Mail of contempt of court.

The Times argued that the place of newspapers was in the press gallery, not as advocates for the prosecution. Andrew Marr, Editor of The Independent, admitted that his first reaction had been an admiring gasp but said that newspapers were not juries, nor were editors judges. The Independent on Sunday

But there has also PAPER ROUND been support for Dacre from the Left Brian MacArthur and the Right. It was time to cheer when the Mail was ready to have a go at

racists, said The Guardian. Yes, the Mail had abused its power and wealth, argued Janet Daley, the Daily Telegraph's columnist, but thousands of black people would now see Britain as a fairer and more decent

"Absolutely excellent," was also the reaction of Paul Foot, Britain's most eminent investigative journalist. Foot, usually an instinctive opponent of Dacre, described his "gutsy performance" as a "source of wonderment". An editor who starts a controversial campaign, however thick his hide, can feel lonely, exposed and vulnerable. Yet the success of one of Foot's investigations many years ago ought to be a source of comfort to

Foot was on the then Daily Mirror in 1981 when Florence Siddons arrived to see him. Her granddaughter Lynn, aged 17, had been stabbed to death three years earlier. A 14year-old boy, Fitzroy Brookes, who had been walking with her when she was attacked. had been charged but acquitted because it had become obvious in court that the real murderer was the boy's stepfather, Michael Subsequently, Brookes's wife had made a

statement to lawyers acting for the Siddons family about his habit of sticking knives into women for enjoyment. Derbyshire police

refused to reopen the inquiry. So Mrs Siddons was sent to Foot by Philip Whitehead, the local Labour MP. After hearing her story. Foot explained that the obvious solution - to print the case against Brookes and name him as a child murderer - seemed impossible because of the libel

"But it's the truth. Mr Foot," she said. "This man murdered Lynn and he's getting away with it." '

Foot worked on the evidence for months and finally battered the Mirror's lawyer and then - after being asked if he was trying to ruin the paper for ever - Tony Miles, the Mirror's chairman, into submission. On April 8, 1981, under the headline "Who

Killed Lynn Siddons?", the Mirror published Foot's answer, which said effectively that the guilty man was Michael Brookes. As Foot wrote later in The Independent, nothing happened. There was no libel action, no action from Derbyshire police. But Mrs Siddons was determined to get

justice for her granddaughter. Again and

again she went to see Foot, who sustained his campaign for years — but it was 15 years before she achieved her victory. Only last year was Brookes finally convicted of murder and jailed for life.

Dacre is that he may be in for a long fight which will be won only by a sustained campaign. As Har-old Evans. Editor of The Sunday Times

mide campaign, used to say, readers notice a campaign only when journalists are bored with it. Foot is familiar with the abuse — the gutter press denying five men a fair trial — that Dacre will meet. It is difficult, he admits, to set firm principles in such cases. Journalists are usually trying to get people out of prison, not to put them inside. Yet when the courts don't convict guilty people, the press surely has the right to intervene.



Out on a limb: the Mail and Mirror

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Exclusive screenings of The Crucible

eaders of The Times have the chance to enjoy an exclusive preview screening of The Crucible, with Academy Award winner Daniel Day-Lewis, Winona Ryder and

Author Arthur Miller wrote the screenplay for The Crucible, adapting his stage play about a group of teenage girls accused of witchcraft in Salem in 1692. The film, directed by Nicholas Hytner (director of The Madness of King George) is a drama about collective evil and personal guilt.

SHOWCASE (6.30-7pm): Birmingham: Erdington; Bristol: Avon Meads; Coventry: Cross Point; Glasgow Showcase Leisure Park, Bargeddie; Leeds: Batley; Liverpool: Norris Green; Manchester: Belle Vue; Notlingham: Lenton; Peterborough: Boongate; Reading: Winnersh; Stockton: Teesside Leisure Park; Walsall: Bentley Mill Way. WARNER (6-6,30pm); Actor: Royal Leisure Cinema; Cambridge: Grafton Centre; Croydon: Lathams Way; Finchley: Great North Leisure Park, Harrow: St Georges Shopping & Leisure Centre. ODEON (6-6.30pm): London: 40 Leicester Square. *UCI (6.30-7pm -- Please collect your two free fickets for UCI cinemas after 1 pm on Friday, February 21): Milton Keynes: UCI 10, The Point, 602 Midsummer Boulevard; Shettield: UCi 10, Crystal Peaks Shopping Centre; Dudley: UCI 10, Merryhill Centre; Derby: UCI 10, Meteor Centre; West

Thurrock: UCI 10, Lakeside Retail Park: Swansea:

UCI 10, Quay Parade, Parc Tawe; Poole: UCI 10,

Tower Park, Preston: UCI 10, Riversway, Ashton on

Ribble; Bracknell: UCI 10, The Point, Skimped Hill

Lane; Lee Valley: UCI 12, Picketts Lock, Edmonton. 🔮



HOW TO GET YOUR COMPLIMENTARY CINEMA TICKETS

Collect four differently numbered tokens from The Times and attach them to the voucher which will be published tomorrow. Present the completed voucher and tokens at one of the cinemas listed at the specified time of the. screening (not before - except for UCI cinemas, see left*). The voucher entitles you to two seats only for a screening of The Crucible on Monday, February 24, 1997. Seats will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis and are subject to availability.

THE TIMES **CRUCIBLE TICKETS OFFER** TOKEN 3

CHANGING TIMES

TV and radio celebrate a longstanding joke

he show was called *The Perfect*Fool and on February 19, 1922, it
may well have seemed a perfectly foolish idea. But New York radio station WJZ was making broadcasting history when it used a live studio audience for the first time. Since that broadcast - 75 years this week - radio and television shows throughout the world have come to rely heavily on the unpaid services of members of the public.

Initially, the BBC was slow to follow the American station's example. In Britain, serious speakers and musicians preferred to commune with the microphone in solitary splendour, declaring that they would be embarrassed by a lot of outsiders sitting and gawping at them. However, unserious performers such

as comedians and variety acts. who were used to playing to the gallery felt inhibited with only a microphone and took to bringing their friends into the recording studios.

Eventually, the BBC decided to make the use of studio audiences official. On May 7, 1924, it invited listeners to identify two voices - an announcer and performer - and a musical item. The winners were invited to make up the first audience in a British recording studio. Broadcast-

House contained one studio that could squeeze in 45 people, while another held 30. A waiting list soon built up.

Unlike present television and radio programmes, there was no warm-up man to encourage the audience to laugh and joke before the show began. Instead, a stage manager would stroll into the studio five minutes before the start and advise

The ubiquitous studio audience is 75 years old, says Jonathan Sale

the audience to applaud only when they thought performances deserved it. He also warned them not to be alarmed by the red light over the studio door. Despite this gloomy presence in 1928, listeners complained that prolonged laughter from studio audiences prevented listeners from hearing the jokes. As a result, the BBC decided to halve audience numbers to keep the noise down.

The BBC's primitive television service managed a world first on Christmas Eve 1936 when an audience was assembled for a variety show called Harry Pringle's Old Veterans. Since then the use of live audiences for television shows has become a BBC tradition. "We do 600 shows at Television Centre," says the BBC spokeswoman Sian Healey, and about 200,000 people come in each year."

Yet in 1949, studio audiences nearly became extinct. In an inglorious milestone of media history, the Hank McCune Show on America's NBC television became the first programme to exchange a real audience for canned laughter. Canned laughter became widely used by American comedy shows: however, it consistently failed to catch on in

Terry Jones, of Monty Python's Flying

The audience tells you if something is funny or not. We would edit the show according to the audience reaction."

The biggest problem for the BBC is ensuring that the people are on the right

wavelength, which was not the case in the first Python show. They were all old people who seemed to think they were coming to see a real circus. After that we appealed to the BBC ticket distributors to provide us with a decent audience." When launching a new show today,

Audience Services is more careful. For a stand-up comedy series, they reach fans by using the mailing lists of comedy clubs. Gathering fans for established shows such as Noel's House Party and Top of the Pops is more straightforward as they have long waiting lists.

The BBC Radio Ticket Unit advertises in Time Out or takes names from a vast waiting list, depending on the kind of show it is recruiting for.

One of the BBC's most important studio audiences is used for Question Time. To obtain a balanced auditorium, the programme organisers ask for political inclinations in advance and, in the studio, make the audience watch a selection of bulletins so that they are fully acquainted with the week's news before they pose questions to the panel.

Despite the BBC's precautions, live audiences remain as unpredictable now as they were 75 years ago. Sometimes they laugh more during a retake than they did when hearing the joke for the first time. Sometimes they don't laugh at all. Sometimes, as happened to Bernard Levin in That Was The Week That Was, they even try to hit the presenter - an opportunity denied to those of us who stay

NEWS ...

Fears over insurance gene tests

People applying for life insurance are to be required to disclose if they have taken genetic tests to predict whether they are at risk of inherited disease.

The ruling yesterday by the British Association of Insurers which will apply to all life cover including term assurance, endowments and personal pensions - is likely to mean higher premiums or even a refusal of cover for some people, even though they may be in good health when they apply. Doctors immediately expressed fears that people would be deterred from seeking tests that might save their lives

Prostitute bribe taxman guilty

An unprecedented Inland Revenue anti-corruption operation is still under way after a senior investigator was convicted of taking bribes, including a prostitute's services......Page 1

Pledge to gavs

Jack Straw, the shadow home secretary, will commit Labour to repealing Conservative legislation, seen as an attack on homosexual rights, which bans local authorities from portraying homosexuality in a positive

Gun law revolt

The Government suffered its worst backbench revolt of the present Parliament as more than 90 Tory MPs voted against a key part of its gun legislation. Page 1 Cannabis denial

Philip Tufnell described as "ridiculous" allegations that he smoked

cannabis on the eve of England's third Test victory Pages 3, 46, 48 '£100.000 murder' A husband brutally murdered his wife for her £100,000 life insurance so he could enjoy the good

life with his young mistress. a

court was told. Rich celebrate

Asian millionaires together worth more than £4 billion gathered to celebrate the publication of a list of the 100 richest among . Page 4

Murder fears

The foster parents of the murdered schoolgirl Billie-Jo Jenkins were so concerned about a prowier near their house in the weeks before the killing that they had decided to movePage 6

Rabies law trauma

A cat-loving couple's dream of moving to Britain from America. was shattered because France gives no warning to travellers about Britain's strict anti-rables

Wife hits back

The wife of a former British policeman who was appointed to clean up Australia's most corrupt force, made a public show of support for her embattled

Lucky Starr

Kenneth Starr, once seen by the White House as a demon sent to torment President Clinton, was dubbed "Clinton's lucky Start" after deciding to step down as special prosecutor for the Whitewater affair..... Page 13

Hayana celebration

Fidel Castro has invited some of Hollywood's biggest stars to Havana to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Cohiba, the cigar he made famous Page 13

Nigeria sanctions

The prospect of Commonwealth sanctions against Nigeria receded after a ministerial group called for further evidence from human rights activists

Saintly Tsar

Talks began on making Nicholas II. the last Tsar, a saint in a dramatic reversal of 70 years of Soviet ideology

Boy, seven, eats his way out of jam

Craig Flatman, seven, who ate nothing but jam sandwiches for three years, has managed to beat his addiction after to eat anything but strawberry or raspberry jam with margarine on two slices of white bread after developing an aversion to other solid food ...



One woman and her dog: A walker and her pet take a trek in the snow which fell in County Durham yesterday

Bardays fall: Shares in Bardays fell 702p to Ell.29 after the bank revealed a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £2.36 billion for 1996. The market expected more Page 25

Welcome Break: The motorway service stations have a new owner after Granada, the leisure group, sold them to Investcorp, the Bahrain investment group, for £476

£6 bn repaid: Britain repaid almost £6 billion of Government debt last month thanks to better than expected tax receipts Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 5.5 points to close at 4332.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 98.0 to 96.8 after a fall from \$1.6167 to \$1.6017 and from DM2.7473 to DM2.7085 Page 28 | the world ...

Cricket: Michael Atherton, the England captain, produced the most inspiring performance of his career to carry his side to victory in the final Test against New

Rugby union: Andre Markgraaff resigned as manager of the South Africa team after tacitly admitting making racist comments in a recorded conversation Page 48

Football: Negotiations are at an advanced stage over Juventus using Oxford United as a "finishing school" for their best young ... Page 44

Triathlon: The British Triathlon Association is backing plans for a London event this year that may challenge Chicago as the largest in

☐ General: much of England and east Wales will have a dry start with clear skies and a touch of

frost in central and eastern parts.

Rain and windy weather already in

the west will spread to all areas during the morning. Gales are expected and sleet or snow over

west and Northern Ireland, spreading east. Gales are likely and snow over high ground.

aring by late evening. Winds

high ground.

Pop party: The mood at Monday's Brit Awards will be distinctly upbeat as the pop music industry celebrates Britain's return to pre-.....Page 37

Rising star: Jane Gardner is a classical composer about to see one of her works - five song settings premiered at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Now she's ready to write an

Paper tigers: Doug Lucie's new play is a fictional tale of Fleet Street whose sex-obsessed, coke-snorting characters don't convince Benedict Nightingale

Texas comes to town: As the Houston Symphony Orchestra arrives to make its London debut, John Allison talks to its conductor, Christoph Eschenbach Page 39

IN THE TIMES

Geoff Brown marvels at

Government's cruel cynicism towards those who cannot have

Joe Joseph asks David Hyde Pierce why film stars fight to get into TV sitcoms Page 17

Nigella Lawson is appalled by the

Pretty dever: Clements Ribeiro, have produced their second collection for Dorothy Perkins ... Page 16

Under threat?: Why we must save our Gang on Four. Michael Gove champions the Today Pages 22, 23 programme ... Have a go: Should the place of newspapers be in the press gallery or as advocates for the prosecution? Pages 22, 23

The good life: Where is the best place to live in Britain? The inhabitants of 189 towns and cities answer

Prime Minister Netanyahu's announcement in the US that "he will support the Conversion Law ... which would, in Israel, deny recognition of conversion to Judaism the Israeli Chief Rabbinate," will cause an historic rift between Israel and the vast majority of Jews in the

Preview: Lucy Gannon of Soldier. Soldier sets her new drama in an open prison. Insiders (BBCI. 9.30pm), Review. Manhew Bond on a fruitful encounter between a knight and a dame Page 47

AR

anada 1566111 orte as

Starr in his eyes

The possibility that American policy at home and abroad might have been for hire is infinitely more important than property speculation in ArkansasPage 19

One nation The more visible a role the nation's

ethnic minorities play in shaping the future, the better for Britain

Test of character

Uncertainty is the element in which cricket, like life, glories. At this rate England will start to think they can thrash Australia this summer. And once they believe that, they

MICHAEL ZANDER It is as wrong to leave to the defendant the choice of court as it would be to leave to him the choice of

SIMON JENKINS

Already there is pressure to divert Russian resources into rebuilding its army and weapons base. Russian generals, reacting to enlargement, last month demanded that Mr Yeltsin retarget their missiles at Nato capitals. Who began all this? Nato, fidgeting....Page 18 PETER RIDDELL

The Government has too many ministers and the House of Commons too many MPs. This view is gaining support

SIMON BARNES Nogood Boyo is a character in Under Milk Wood. Contemplating life, he says: "I want to be good boyo - but they just won't let me."

Phil Tufnell, the England spin

bowler, to a tee

Captain John Wells, naval historian: Marjorie Reynolds, film actress; Professor Vernon Joyce, entomologist; David Crichton. journalist and diplomat Page 21

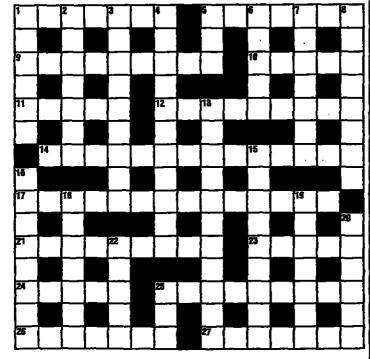
Baroness Blatch on minimum sentences; women priests; long term care of the elderly

Snow

Temperatur (Celsius)

Wind spec

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,407



ACROSS

l Foreign editor's fashionable surroundings (7).

5 New bread is cooked (7). 9 I crane to follow a very strong document out before court (9).

10 Stops free publicity (5). 11 Figure is firm, not altogether pleasant (5).

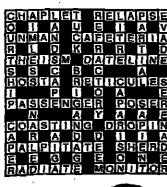
12 Criminal child seen by head (9). 14 A bacon sandwich has a place in children's game (3,2,3,6).

17 Epiphany revels are abandoned with hesitation (14). 21 Plant finds right time to spread

into land mass (9). 23 Flowering, the same or better (5). 1 24 Man's father, Wordsworth de-

clared paradoxically (5). 25 Resent having to marry? (4,5). 26 Get away from Rocket, say - it's

Solution to Puzzle No 20,406



27 Stagger, having shock treatmentinvite to sit for extended period (2-

DOWN

l Points, with teasing look (6). 2 Fancy new designation initially announced for Turkish title (7). 3 Sort of reasoning within Channel

Four on drug (9). 4 A queen may be very nervous (4.7).

5 Take a risk showing all the letters after next answer (3).

6 Paul's second letter to the Corinthians? (5). 7 Hurried to secure chimney that's collapsed (7).

8 Unending love token I'd held up in confusion (8). 13 Something assumed by Holmes,

when the game was aloot? (11). 15 Completely safe wearing bluish purple, say (9).

16 Criminal holding weapon level 18 Country-lover ready to overlook noisy behaviour (7).

19 Greek language employed in extremely large grid (7). 20 Half-hearted way in which crowd

supports county (6). 22 Handsome deal secures this text of Euripides (5).

25 Weight down? (3). Times Two Crossword, page 48

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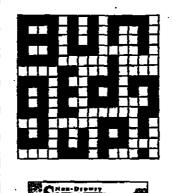
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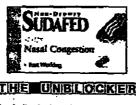
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HISTEST & LOWEST Yesterday: Fag. 10C (50F); lower Turone, 2C (36F);



SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper media up 41,2% of the raw material for





the Travolta phenomenon in Michael

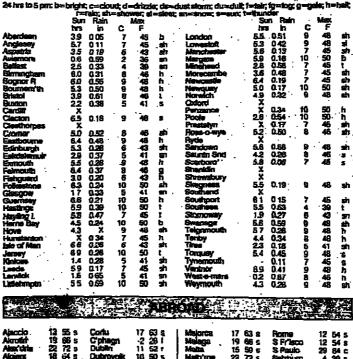
■ FILMS

BOOKS Sir Michael Levey on the spoils of Renaissance Venice; Jeanette Winterson on Edith Sitwell's letters

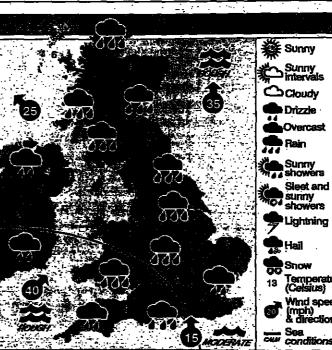
England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: bright at first, then increasing cloud and rain spreading from the west during the morning. Becoming clearer with showers in the evening. Winds strong to gale, south or southwest. Cold. Max 9C (48F).

SWales, N Wales, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: overcast and wet with Eastern Scotland will have a dry, bright start ahead of wet and windy weather, already over the sleet or snow on hills, turning showery. Winds strong to gale, southwest or west. Max 8C (46F). London, SE England, E Anglia: sunny, trosty morning, clouding over with rain in the atternoon, ☐ NE Scotland, Orkney, Shet-land: bright, isolated showers at first, then rain spreading from the fresh becoming strong, south or southwest, gale in exposed parts. Cold. Max 9C (48F). south. Winds strong to gale, perhaps severe gale, southeast veering south or southwest. Cold. Max 5C (41F).

Cl Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, NW England, Lake District, Central N Outlook: unsettled in the North with further wet and windy wea-ther. More settled in the South.



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— Maariv

Changes to the chart below from noon; low E will track northeast with little change in central pressure; low C will remain stationary and fill slowly



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INSIDE SECTION

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ETER RIDDEL

MON BARKES



ARTS Land of pop and glory - and the Spice Girls

PAGES 37-39



HOMES The best place in Britain to live

says a new survey **PAGE 41**



SPORT Triathlon up and running on streets of London

PAGES 43-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19 1997

Investcorp wins Welcome Break

Granada sells £566m of Forte assets

GRANADA GROUP contin-ued to clear the decks of former Forte assets yes-terday with the sale of the Welcome Break service station chain and the Westbury hotels in London and New York for a combined price of £566 million.

Granada has raised 11.2 billion from disposals since it won its £3.9 billion takeover

battle for Forte a year ago. The Welcome Break chain, which Granada had to sell by the end of April to avoid a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, was sold for £476 million to Investcorp. The investment group, based in Bahrain, beat stiff competition for the 21-strong chain from Asda and CinVen, the venture capital group.

Chelsfield, the property com-

Clyde is the loser by a fraction

BY CARL MORTISHED

GULF Canada Resources won its takeover battle for Clyde Petroleum by a hair's breadth with just 51.42 per cent of the shares under its control at yesterday's Ipm deadline.

The £494 million cash offer was successful despite a late attempt by a friendly investor to swing the bal-ance in Clyde's favour. SHV Energy, the private Dutch group that acquired Calor last year, bought four million shares at the 120pper share bid price from Global Asset Management. It acquired a further 400,000 shares in the mar-

ket, giving the Dutch com-pany, which has joint venture gas interests with Clyde in The Netherlands, almost I per cent. Gulf had already bought 29 per cent of Clyde's

shares, including a 14 per cent stake held by PDFM. the fund manager. Accep-tances received by the deadline yesterday totalled 88.4 million shares, amounting to 21.43 per cent of the company. These are thought to have included some 8 per cent of the company held by Norwich Union Schroders, the fund manager which has been a strong supporter of Clyde, is not thought to have accepted the bid.

Malcolm Gourlay. Clyde's chairman, said control of the company had passed by the finest of margins. "We are extremely disappointed ... How-ever, we do appreciate the strong support shown by a large body of our share-

holders," he said. The bid battle had focused intially on a dispute over the proper method to value Clyde, with Gulf basing its bid on net asset value. Meanwhile Clyde insisted that comparable companies valued on cashilow multiples suggested a much higher price. However, the recent tall in the oil price worked against Clyde and is believed to have left investors fearful of losing Gulf's

pany, bought the two Westbury hotels for £90 million. The sale prices were well ahead of market expectations and mean that Granada has made a total profit of £206 million over book value from its disposals programme. Eleven hotels in the Exclu-

sive hotel chain, including the Ritz in Rome and Plaza Athenee in Paris, are still to be sold although the company said it was confident of making the sales over the next couple of months. Granada will also put its 63 per cent stake in the Savoy Hotel Group, valued at about £200 million, up for auction. Granada has already sold the Hyde Park Hotel in London, the King George V in Paris and Sandy Lane in Barbados for about £230 million.

But the company confirmed.

that it will not sell the Grosve-

nor House hotel in London. Granada is believed to have faced difficulty finding bid-ders willing to match the £350 million price tag. The com-pany is understood to be aiming to double profits at the 600-room hotel to £40 million over the next couple of years. Elhoft Bernerd, chairman of Chelsfield, said the company is looking to develop the retail potential of the Westbury hotels, which occupy prime sites in Bond Street, London and Madison Avenue, New York. The company believes it can create up to four units in the London hotel with about 28,000 ft of retailing space. Chelsfield will spend \$15 million on the conversion and

aims to attract rents of \$4 mil-

lion in Madison Avenue and £2 million from Bond Street. Granada said that net pro-

ceeds of the Westbury sales will be £50 million, £9.5 million above book value, after the unwinding of leasing arrangements at the Westbury in New York. Last year the hotels produced pre-tax profits of £5.1 million.

Michael Guthrie, previous chief executive of the Pavilion motorway service station chain, will become chief executive of Welcome Break. Mr Guthrie is expected to serve in this capacity for at least a year before becoming chairman: Richard Warner, a member of Investcorp's management

committee, said Welcome Break had been undermarketed and underdeveloped. Investoorp believes there is a significant opportunity to improve profitability and quality through a £50 million investment programme and expansion. Investcorp is looking at other acquisition opportunities in the UK. Last year Welcome Break earned oper-ating profits of £32 million on turnover of £335 million. Granada said the sale price

of Welcome Break was £14: million above book value. Granada will retain the chain's airports and trunk than £5 million last year. But the City was relatively

ummoved by the sales and Granada shares feli lp to 9282 p. Cheisfield shares were unchanged at 328 2 p.

Pennington, page 27



City, will get share options worth £375,000 in the football club's £25 million AIM flotation. Page 26

Shares slide at Barclays in spite of £2.4bn profit

By Robert Miller, banking correspondent

SHARES in Barclays fell yesterday in spite of the bank full-year profits to £2.4 billion and pledging to return £500 million to shareholders dur-

The share price tumbled 70½p to close at 1129p on the ground that the figures were at the lower end of the market's expectations and because of the sharper than predicted fall in operating profits at BZW, the global investment banking arm of Barclays. which chipped in £204 million, against £289 million in

Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, went out of his way yesterday to give his personal support to the whole-sale changes of staff and strategy that have taken place at BZW. These began with the arrival last September of Bill Harrison from Robert Fleming to become chief executive of BZW.

The recruitment of expensive senior staff and the redundancies that followed were responsible for almost the entire fall in the profits from the investment banking divi-sion. Costs rose to £1.1 billion, from £901 million previously, and provisions were up £10 million to £12 million.

Without the personnel costs, move to new offices at Canary Wharf in London's Docklands later this year, BZW saw its total income rise to £1.3 bil-lion, from £1.2 billion, in the year to December 31.

Barclays, which saw its earnings per share increase to 104.2p from 83.6p last time, said that it had still to decide the best mechanism for returning the £500 million earmarked for shareholders. On

cluding the half-time results last August, Barclays has taken the share buyback route. One alternative is for the bank to pay a special dividend although that could have unwelcome tax implications for

some investors. On the mainstream dividend, Barclays lifted its final payout to 20p, payable on April 29, from 16.5p previous-ly, making a total for the year of 31.5p, against 26p last time. Barclays reported substan-

tially increased profits in almost all of its business areas and a fall in bad debt provisions to £215 million, from £396 million in 1995. Profits in UK personal banking rose to £773 million, against £659

City Diary.

million, while business banking was up £47 million at £801 million. Barclaycard signed up more than 900,000 new

In the competitive home loans market the cost of incentives rose £4 million to £70 million. The bank's asset management group, which in-cludes Wells Fargo in America and Barclays Unicorn, the UK a busmess, carpped in a £10 million increase in operating profits to £32 million.

Andrew Buxton, chairman of Barclays, which set aside about £96 million for the staff profit-sharing scheme, said: As a group we have sought to give value to shareholders while investing substantially in better service for customers and recognising the efforts of

BUSINESS TODAY

US RATE

New York **555**

SSS DOLLAR

NORTH SEA OIL COLD . London close..... \$345.35 (\$344.25)

Britannic bonus Shares in Britannic

denotes middey trading price

Assurance rose by 67p, to 870p, after the group transferred £902 million from its life fund into shareholders' funds. The group will raise its 1996 dividend by 82 per cent and pledge to maintain a progressive dividend policy.

SmithKline tonic

SmithKline Beecham, the drug giant, raised 1996 pretax profits by 14 per cent, to £1.54 billion, although it blamed the strong pound for the loss of E35 million of profits in the fourth quarter. Page 27

Clarke welcomes tax and debt figures

By Janet Bush, economics editor

BRITAIN'S public finances showed a sharp improvement in January with a bumper haul of both corporation tax and VAT receipts which should mean that the Government comfortably undershoots its own target for borrowing this year.

The Government repaid £5.82 billion of borrowing last month, nearly twice the amount the City had predicted and the biggest monthly sur-plus since records began in 1989. This left cumulative borrowing in the first ten months of the year at £10.34 billion, a sharp improvement on the £19.34 billion accumulated over the same period a year ago, according to the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, welcomed the figures as excellent and said: These figures are further confirmation that borrowing is on a dear downward path. We are now comfortably on track for the Budget forecast and 1 am hopeful we will do even better

STERLING slumped four

pfennigs yesterday in reaction to the Bank of England's

distinct softening of its de-

mands for higher base rates

The pound reacted dramati-

cally to testimony before the

Commons Treasury Select Committee late on Monday by

Eddie George, Governor of

the Bank of England. He said

(Janet Bush writes).

than that." In his Budget in November, Mr Clarke announced a Public Sector Borrowing Requirement prediction for the year as a whole of £26.4 billion with a forecast of a £19.2 billion PSBR in the

fiscal year 1997-98. The City said yesterday that borrowing could undershoot this year by several billions and that next year's projection now looks plausible. Keith Davies, UK Economist at



Governor's remarks hit sterling

now less urgent and sterling's strength recently meant that

the Government could hit its

2.5 per cent inflation target at

to 96.8 at the close yesterday

from 98 on Monday. The

DM2.7085 compared with

The mark was stronger in

DM2.7473 late on Monday.

Sterling's effective index fell

the end of this Parliament

pound was quoted

the need for a rate rise was its own right as investors

4cast, said: "The strength of January's receipts data sug-gests that the PSBR is increasingly likely to come in under the £26.4 billion target and suggests that an improving fiscal environment awaits an incoming government — of whichever persuasion."

There was good news on

both the revenue and spending sides of the equation. Cumulative corporation tax receipts are now some 17 per cent higher than in the first ten months of last year. For the full year, the Treasury predicted an increase of 10.6 per cent. VAT was also encouraging with cumulative receipts up 15 per cent from last year. Again, VAT receipts look set to beat the Treasury's forecast for the full year of an increase of 10.2 per cent. Spending is slightly over-

shooting Treasury projections. up 2.7 per cent so far in the current fiscal year compared with the Treasury's planned increase for the whole year of 2.2 per cent. However, analysts said this overshoot is small

baled out of the lira and peseta

on doubts about whether they

would join the first wave of a

single currency. The mark

shot up 10 lire after a Belgian

newspaper quoted the Gover-nor of Belgium's central bank

as saying that monetary union

would be better off starting

without Italy. The Governor

later denied his remarks had

referred to Italy, but the

damage had been done.

Ahmanson launches \$6bn bid for rival

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

A SURPRISE \$6 billion hostile bid has been launched by HF Ahmanson, America's largest savings and loan (S&L) company, for Great Western Financial, which is ranked number two.

The combined group would have assets of around \$95 billion. S&Ls are America's building societies with their shares listed on the New York stock market.

Ahmanson said it launched the unsolicited bid after discussions about a possible merger failed to make progress. The offer of \$42.53 a share for Great Western renresents a 23 per cent premium to Monday's closing price. There was no immediate response from Great Western.

Charles Rinehart, Ahmanson's chairman, said he estimated cost savings of around \$400 million, more than the combined profits of the two S&Ls last year. Both companies are based in the Los Angeles area, where about 200 of their 800 branches would be closed.

The takeover would elevate Ahmanson into new areas of banking, such as cheque accounts, business loans and financial advice, which Great Western has pioneered in the S&L industry. Until recently Ahmanson was restricted to savings accounts and mort-

The offer is by far the largest in a wave of consolidations in the S&L industry similar to the merger mania that swept the American banking industry

Morigages especially for directors and ine self employed ...and no delails of income needed!

FINDING A MORTGAGE if you are self employed or a director of your own company can be a frustrating experience. Many lenders will request 3 years full audited accounts before an application is even considered, whilst others now refuse such applications completely.

Allied Dunbar, on the other hand, positively welcomes such requests and, in conjunction with a major UK bank, has developed an exclusive mortgage arrangement to cater for these

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For the life you don't yet know



Bankers expected to vouch for fraud controls

BY ROBERT MILLER BANKING CORRESPONDENCE

SENIOR UK bank directors will in future have to provide annual evidence to the Bank of England that their internal audit systems are robust and that adequate controls are in place to prevent fraud.

The Bank's proposals, published yesterday by its Supervision and Surveillance department and almost certain to come into force, also call for comments on the introduction of a routine bilateral meeting between the Bank's watchdog

Avon sells

division

for £60m

Avon Rubber, the car parts

producer, is selling its tyres division to Cooper Tire & Rubber of America,

for £60 million. The sale generates a £12 million

profit, which will be invested in the spare parts supply business. Avon said it is in talks with six

potential takeover targets.

The division, which had

assets of £45.3 million.

claims just 0.1 per cent of the world tyre market. It earned profits of £8.2 mil-

lion on sales of £111 million

last year. Cooper, which only operates in America.

will use the division to

spearhead its expansion

into Europe.Avon shares rose 334p to 7214p.

Roxspur plan

Roxspur, the engineering

instruments group, said it plans to acquire business-

es, products and brands consistent with its core

activities. Pre-tax profits

were £771.000 (£536,000

loss) in the half year to

December 31. Earnings

were 0.2lp (0.3p loss). As last year, there is no inter-

im dividend, However, the

board expects to pay a final dividend, subject to

Clondalkin, the Irish print

and packaging group, an-nounced a 22 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to a record Ir£22.3 million for

the year to December 1996.

A final dividend of 4.2p,

payable on April 11, lifts

the total 10 per cent to 6.6p.

Stadium rise

a maiden total of 4p.

ABP hit

in Humberside.

Stadium Group, the plastic and electronics com-

the group's recovery.

Profits lift

and the individual reporting accountant (RA). Commenting on the RA regime in its consultative document, the Bank says that it reached the conclusion that it "is a valuable supervisory tool, but accepts that it does not work as effectively as was hoped when the regime was introduced in 1988".

In order to set out the parameters of responsibility for bank directors and senior managers, as opposed to the statutory rules for auditors, the Bank has said that it will publish a special guidance notice on corporate

directors, the audit committee, senior management and internal audit, and "provide guidance on the high level operating controls which the Bank would expect institutions to have in

The Bank supervision team, headed by Michael Foot, added that "there would also be value in requiring an annual statement from the board of directors of each authorised institution given its ultimate responsibility for the system of internal control, for monitoring its effectiveness and for ensuring that the institu-

This note will spell out the role of the board of tion continues to comply with the minimum criteria for authorisation set out in section three of the Banking Act".

On the role of auditors, the Bank - which also published a second paper yesterday on The Objectives, Standards and Processes of Banking Supervision - highlighted the professional requirement for lead audit partners who audit listed companies to rotate. The Bank said that the requirement should apply to work carried out for all authorised institutions. The Bank added: "For such work, the cycle should be reduced from seven to five years."

Campaign on shares by Irish **Permanent**

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DÚBLIN

AN estimated 50,000 people who have not yet taken up their entitlement to more than 14 million shares in Irish Permanent, the Irish Republie's biggest mortgage lender, have been given until September to lodge their claims.

Announcing a 14.7 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to Ir£48.6 million, for 1996, Roy Douglas, chief executive, said that he believed that family issues and a climate of secrecy about money accounts might be responsible for the reluctance of so many people to come forward. The former building society, which floated more than two years ago, is to undertake an advertising campaign to inform potential daimants about the shares. which will be extinguished if unclaimed after September 21. In its core market of residen-

tial mortgages in the Republic, rose by 39 per cent, to Ir£528 million, in 1996, lifting market share to more than 21 per cent. Commercial mortgages rose by 23 per cent, to Ir£74 million. The car and small consumer loans sector had growth of 69 per cent in new business, to IrE108 million.

Overall net interest income grew by 10 per cent, to IrE101 million, Other income rose by 7.4 per cent, to Ir£17.7 million. Mr Douglas said that buy-

ing Capital Home Loans, the UK centralised mortgage lender, in October had left Irish Permanent well placed to gain from recovery in the UK mortgage market. The sitions is in the Irish Republic and he reiterated Irish Permanent's interest in TSB, the state-controlled bank, if it is put on the market by the Irish Government

Abbey National has a 9.9 per cent stake in Irish Permanent. The five-year protection period for newly floated companies in Ireland expires in just over two years.

Earnings were 1r39.4p a share, up from Ir34.2p. A final dividend of Ir8.25p, due on May 23, lifts the total by 16 per

products, which became evi-

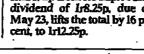
dent at the end of 1995,

Premium income for new life insurance business, at £3.7

billion, rose by 28 per cent.

New single premiums, at £3.3

continued throughout 1996."



Marriott to pay \$1bn for Renaissance

MARRIOTT International, the US hotels group, has agreed to acquire Renaissance Hotel Group, the Dutch company whose hotel brands include Ramada and New World, for \$1 billion. The companies will jointly have more than 1,300 hotels worldwide, across ten brands. Marriott expects annual cost savings of between \$15 million and \$20 million to result from the merger. By late 1997, Marriott's worldwide result from the merger. By late 1997, Martiolit's working lodging system is expected to exceed 300,000 hotel rooms.

Marriott hotels include Ritz-Carlton, Courtyard and Fairfield and the purchase will greatly expand its presence in the Asian market. Renaissance shareholders who own more than 54 per cent of the voting stock have agreed to the acquisition and will receive \$30 a share in cash. Marrion expects its earnings before interest charges, tax, depreciation and amortisation to rise by up to \$85 million in the 12 months

St Modwen advances

after the acquisition.

SIGNS of recovery in the property sector were underlined yesterday when St Modwen, the property investment and development company, said that it had returned to growth. Its rental income rose by 39 per cent, to £11.4 million, in the year to November 30. Revenue almost doubled to £40.2 million, from £20.8 million. from £20.8 million. Pre-tax profits were £11.7 million (£10 million). Heavy spending on property took gearing to 97 per cent, from 57 per cent. Earnings per share were 6.8p (6.1p). A 1.7p final dividend; due on April 18, makes 2.5p (2.1p).

Building new jobs

THE building industry has put forward pre-election proposals for a new government which, it says, would create 150,000 jobs. Proposals from the the Building Employers Confederation and the Major Contractors Group cover taxation, investment, training and the environment. Sir Martin Laing, BEC head and chairman of John Laing Construction, said the construction industry was "fundamental" to the British economy, reflecting economic confidence in the way that no other industry could.

Chambers network

IAN LANG, President of the Board of Trade, will today announce an approved network of 52 chambers of commerce to improve the local representation system for businesses. Approved chambers include those in Birmingham, London, Manchester, Leeds, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Bristol, Sheffield and Glasgow. David Richardson, president of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: This new network responds to the needs of the modern company and gives them powerful representation at local, national and international levels."

Finelist in takeover

FINELIST, the distributor of automotive components, is acquiring First Line, a wholesale packager and distributor of spare parts, for a sum of £7.2 million. Finelist is paying an initial £2 million in cash and £2.7 million in shares with the balance related to future profits. First Line earned profits of £500,000 in the year to March 31. Chris Swan, the chairman of Finelist, said that First Line would benefit from an improved relationship with suppliers and increased investment as part of a large group.

CompuServe chief quits

executive of CompuServe, the world's second biggest computer online service company, for "personal reasons", Mr Massey, 51, had held the post for only 18 months. CompuServe has struggled against America Online, its main competitor, and its share price has fallen 60 per cent since last April, when it was valued at \$30 a share in an initial public offering. Third-quarter results, due tomorrow, will follow a second-quarter loss of \$24.5 million.

European drive by Colt

COLT, the telecoms company that floated in December, said yesterday that it would expand its European business by constructing high-capacity networks for corporate customers this year in Munich, Hamburg, Berlin and Paris. The 1997 capital expenditure programme is to double to almost 580 million. The company, formerly City of London Telecommunications, reported a loss of £11.2 million in the year to December 31, against a loss of £5.2 million in the previous year, on turnover that almost tripled to £35 million.

Chez Gerard grows

GROUPE CHEZ GERARD, the West End restaurant group, has bought Livebait, a fashionable fish restaurant at Waterloo, central London, for up to £1.6 million. The company, which already owns nine restaurants, said the acquisition would enhance earnings and complement its fish restaurants, Cafe Fish and Scotts. Livebait made a £62,000 profit on sales of E474,000 in its first year. Chez Gerard reported interim profits of £1.31 million (£1.35 million). The interim dividend rises 1) percent, to 1p, due on May 13. Earnings per share were 5.1p (5.2p).

Setback for Macro 4

SHARES in Macro 4 fell 52½ p, to 422½ p, after the independent software company said that it suffered a 13.8 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to E5.13 million, from E5.96 million, in the half year to December 31. The company attributed the decline to the pound's strength and said that full-year profits would also be adversely affected if there is no appreciable change in exchange rates. Earnings per share fell by 7.8 per cent. to 16.5p, but the dividend is rising by 4.3 per cent, to 9.7p. At constant exchange rates, profits would have been little changed at \$5.9 million.



Roy Douglas, left, and Peter Fitzpatrick, finance director, yesterday said they were focusing on buying in the Irish Republic Irish Permanent's new lending

Britannic investors to share in £1bn bonanza

By Marianne Curphey, insurance correspondent

SHAREHOLDERS in Britannic Assurance will receive an 82 per cent dividend increase next month after the life insurer won approval to redissurplus assets.

pany, lifted pre-tax profits The insurer's 1.2 million to £4.7 million (£4 million) policyholders will also share in 1996. Earnings were in a £209 million payout, unchanged at IL5p. A worth an average £175 to each. final dividend of 3p makes Shares surged 662p, to 870p, on the news. Shares in Prudential, which is also seeking to share out part of its estimated £5 billion surplus, Associated British Ports is taking a £3 million charge fell 82p, to 5642p, amid City against its planned withfears that talks with the Dedrawal from Universal partment of Trade and Indus-Pipe Coaters, a joint ventry would be less successful. ture with Powell Duffryn Brian Shaw, Britannic's

now expected double-digit div-

idend increases in future years. This progressive divi-dend policy would lift the total dividend for 1996 from 15.4p to 28p when the insurer reports 18. he said.

Surplus assets, known in the industry as orphan estate, are a sum of money in the life fund of an insurance company which is more than that needed to meet "the reasonable demand of policyholders". In practice, this means a sum to cover the cost of paying annual bonuses plus adequate reserves for any lean years of stock market growth.

A number of insurers have already concluded talks with the DTI over their orphan estate and have paid out chief executive, said that he

policyholders and shareholders. They include Pearl Assurance, London & Manchester, Legal & General, United Friendly and Refuge Assurer as United Assurance).

Bonuses to Britannic policyholders will be added to the value of with-profits insurance or pension policies, and vary according to the length of time they have been held.

A maturing 15-year endowment policy with a premium of £5 collected every four weeks from the home will be allocated an additional £110 in bonus. A maturing 25-year endowment policy with a £20 premium will be allocated an

extra £762 bonus. Britannic has had its life

fund valued at £5.7 billion, of which £902 million has been attributed to shareholders. Britannic Said yesterday that it was writing to all withshareholders to inform them

of the proposals, which in-clude change in its Articles of Association. The plans will be set out in a special resolution to be put to the annual meeting on May 9. Asked whether Britannic

had been approached by other companies with a view to a merger or takeover. Mr Shaw said that Britannic was "an independent and financially viable company, and we intend to stay that way".

Tempus, page 28

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Birmingham City

By JASON NISSE

year-old managing director of Birmingham City, has been given share options worth E375,000 as part of the first division football club's E25 million flotation on the Alternative Investment Market.

Ms Brady is receiving options over 750,000 shares at 50p each. She is also buying 10,000 shares in the float, while Trevor Francis, the team manager, is purchasing 40,000 and Steve Bruce, the club captain, 50,000.

Ms Brady said Mr Bruce received a £350,000 signing fee when he left Manchester United to join Birmingham

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KARREN BRADY, the 27- last summer. The float values the stake held by Sport Newspapers, the soft porn publisher run by David Sullivan, at £14.8 million. Sport took control of the group in 1993 and has invested £6.57 million. Birmingham is raising £7.5

million. largely through a placing with institutions, but there will be an opportunity for private investors. The money will be used to invest in new players and on the ground at St Andrews.

In the year to August 1996 the club made operating profits, before transfer payments, of just £803,000 on turnover of

Options for boss of | Policy sellers regain 'feel-good' factor

By Marianne Curphey, insurance correspondent AFTER two years of recession.

the life and pensions industry has recovered the "feel-good" factor and has reported a 33. per cent rise in new policies. Sales in 1996 totalled E18.9 billion, the highest since 1993. Sales of new life and pension policies in the fourth quarter of 1996 were up £5 billion, or 24 per cent. The

figures show that the industry is emerging from the dark days of the pensions mis-selling scandal and the effects of greater disclosure. Mark Boleat, director-general of the Association of British Insurers, said: "The upturn in the billion, increased by 28 per cent, with annual premiums, at £400 million, rising by 20 per cent. For individual pensions, premium income was £1.3 billion, 17 per cent ahead. New annual premiums were £300 million, up 20 per cent, with single premiums, at £1

Pennington, page 27

billion, rising 16 per cent.

18 February 1997

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A CABLE 8 WIRELESS COMPANY		XIIIK IATES	
	·	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
DEAR	Australia \$	2.20	2.04
	Austria Sch	20.27	18.77
	Beigium Fr	58.52	55.22
レレハハ	Canada \$	2.291	2.131
	Cypnis Cypf: .	0.851	0.796
	Denmerk Kr :_	11.02	10.22
	Finland Mick	8.69	8.04
	France Fr	9.65	9.00
	Germany Dan .	2.89	2.08
OLD BT.	Greece Dr	447	421
	Hong Kong \$	13.14	12.14
	loeland	120	100
OLV DI.	Ireland Pt	1.08	1.00
	Israel Stok	5.70	5.05
	Itely Lira	2835	2660
	Japan Yen	214.90	198.90
	Melta	0.658	0.603
	Netherids Gld	3.225	2.995
	New Zetland \$	2.48	2.26
	Norwey Kr	11.44	10.84
	Portugal Esc	286.00	267.50
IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO BE	S Africa Rd	7.70	6,90
	Spein Pta	243.00	236.00
	Sweden Kr	12.62	11,82
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In accordance with the standard conditions relating to the payment of the undermentioned dividends declared on 17 January 1997, payments from the office of the United Kingdom Registrar will be made in United Kingdom currency at the rate of exchange of R7.1635 South African currency to £1 United Kingdom currency, this being the first available rate of exchange for remittances between the Republic of South Africa and the United Kingdom on 17 February 1997, as advised by the companies Sou The United Kingdom currency equivalents of the dividends are therefore as follows: Аглоцпа (All companies are incorporated in per share the Republic of South Africa) No. (<u>pence</u>) Gold Fields Property Company Limited 3.48991 New Wits Limited 2.37314 Vogelstruisbult Metal Holdings Limited 3.48991 London Office and Office of By order of the boards. United Kingdom Registrar: per pro GOLD FIELDS CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED Gold Fields Corporate Services Limit Landon Secretaries Greencoar House S.). Dunning

WOULDN'T it be nice to run a lottery that nobody ever won, a casino that never paid out wher-ever the roulette ball fell. Some fear that this no-win game is be-

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Macro4

ing invented by the big insurers.
You can be blacklisted if you live in an area where burglary or subsidence are common. You may have difficulty finding car insurance unless you have a safe garage in which you lock your vehicle every night. Make a claim on the car and just watch next year's premiums rocket.

Now there are worries that the principle of red-lining parts of the population is spreading to life insurance through the use of advanced genetic testing to work out which applicants are most likely to die from certain diseases, and then deny them insurance cover or charge them higher premiums.

It is tempting to blame the greed of insurers, but, in reality, this is a hideously complex moral issue. First off, genetic predisposition to a disease is already widely used to select out applicants; tick the box that says both parents died early of bear both parents died early of heart disease and your premiums will reflect this. This is actuarial screening, not genetic, but the result is the same.

genetic test from all applicants. Medical science will allow more and more diseases to be detected this way and screened out. The Association of British Insurers has come up with a compromise with little effect in the real world. which defers a final decision for

two years at least. Applicants will be required to report the results of all medical tests, as before, but in most cases genetic tests will not be used to decide whether cover can be offered. The assumption must be that, come 1999, the hawks among the insurers will make more headway and use of genetic evidence will be more common. The danger is that people have genetic tests for the most respect-

able of reasons. As with Aids testing, this tends to happen before they have to think fully about their insurance needs. Strain out the positive tests, and you are penalising the responsible, or encouraging them to be irresponsible by ignoring any

The real moral dilemma is that

PENNINGTON

insurance covers a spectrum of risks, from voluntary ones, such as smoking, through grey issues, such as Aids, to risks that are entirely involuntary, those hidden genetic disorders. Some voluntary behaviour can reasonably be made more expensive to insure against.

If the doctors carry on, and they will, the insurance industry will one day have to take a moral stand and forbid refusal of cover for such involuntary medical risks. The difficulty will be maintaining that stance across the whole industry, and not allowing some firms to cherry-pick the healthiest customers.

Welcome break for Guthrie?

☐ MOTORWAY services must be the ultimate non-dis-cretionary purchase. No one stops at a Welcome Break for fun, you stop out of physical need or because the kids are becoming too fractious in the back. There is

Management

shake-up

at Peptide

PEPTIDE Therapeutics, the

vaccine development com-

pany that has partnership deals with Medeva and

SmithKline Beecham, has

unveiled senior manage-

ment changes (Paul

John Brown, finance di-rector, becomes chief execu-

tive, replacing Alan Goodman, who will become deputy chairman and be responsible for licensing deals in Morth America

deals in North America. Sir

Brian Richards, 65 later this

year, is giving up his execu-

tive role, although he will

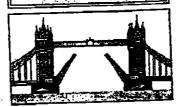
Peptide spent £5 million

on research and develop-ment last year. With negligi-

ble sales of £150,000, this pro-

duced a pre-tax loss of £4.6 million (£3.6 million loss).

remain chairman.



little active consumer choice, either; no one drove 30 miles past a Welcome Break to get to a Granada, or vice versa.

So the policy so far has been to price as high as the trade will bear, keep investment low and leave the customers to look after themselves. It is at first hard to see what has persuaded investcorp, the Bahrain-backed investment house, to pay well over the odds for 21 Welcome Breaks and promise another £50 million to do them up.

The price, plus that investment, represents about 12 times' historic profits before interest and tax. Investcorp has gran-

diose plans to create the world leader in motorway caffs, and even export this to places where the idea has yet to catch on.

Previous attempts to make motorway services more profitable have focused on increasing spend per head, persuading you to have that one more coffee while bribing the kids with Smarties and a cheap colouring book. Welcome Break's new owners have cleverly seen through to the fundamental drawback of this approach, that the places are so awful that no one willingly extends their stay.

They instead aim to raise productivity, so drivers are less likely to be put off by lengthy queues. They claim one advantage; the petrol price wars have duced the premium motorway fuel used to enjoy, making a detour onto an A-road for a pit stop less of a saving and so attracting more potential customers to the cates.

Investcorp's average period of investment is a little more than four years. Michael Guthrie, the

Barred from the genetic casino chairman, might at last get a stock market float out of this one. after a couple of false starts in Brightreasons and Pavilion.

Dynamic disarray

I JUST listen to this. The changes will clarify the structure and give a sharper edge to our global offering for multinational clients." They really do talk like that, these public relations people. That was Colin Trusler, big cheese at Shandwick, putting a positive spin on the departure of half his City team.

The last time this column said anything remotely disparaging about a City PR firm, someone came round to The Times almost immediately with a flip-chart.

Fact. Still, here goes.
City PR companies, like amoebas and other equally low forms of life, reproduce by fission. So it is virtually impossible to shackle any employee to his or her desk, except by paying huge amounts

of money, generally far more than they are worth. They are even more fissiparous than advertising agencies, because a campaign can be identified and judged, however subjectively. The "added value" the PR industry gives to its clients is rather more ill-defined -- often little more than a personal relation-ship with the bosses at the company, which is why the account tends to move on the

arrival of a new chairman. The Shandwick executives leaving will take an unspecified number of accounts with them. and this will do an unspecified amount of damage to the business remaining. Such uncertainty should make the shares impossible to value, yet they still sell on 12 times this year's estimated earnings. Pretty silly, for a company that on the industry's past record might not

be around in 12 years. These are not good businesses for the stock market, yet one such, Citigate, is about to float. Citigate was unconcerned yesterday about the implications of the walk-out at Shandwick. What, nothing positive about the abundance of new start-ups in the sector proving its dynamic potential ? Come, come - some body isn't trying.

A number of insurers want a New drugs fuel growth at SmithKline Beecham

SmithKline Beecham (SB), Britain's second largest pharmaceuticals group, yesterday promised continued high growth as a multitude of new drug products gain

Jan Leschly, chief execu-tive, said: We believe that we can maintain our objective of double-digit earnings growth in 1997." The optimistic outlook helped to lift the shares 13p to 89412p, putting them within striking distance of their 52-week high of 9042p.

The company said, however, that pre-tax earnings this year could fall by as much as 5 per cent if sterling

remains at year-end levels. Earnings were reduced by £35 million, or 9 per cent, in the last quarter of 1996, when sterling rose sharply against the American and European

The fourth-quarter currency hit reduced earnings by 2 per cent in the full year. SB, unlike its rival Zeneca, does not hedge against currency

in the year to December 31, SB reported pre-tax profits of £1.55 billion, up 14 per cent, on sales of £7.93 billion, up 13 per cent. Excluding the effects of currency fluctuations, pre-tax profits rose 16 per cent to £1.57 billion. Earnings per share of

37.9p, up 12 per cent, were in line with City forecasts. New drugs, defined as drugs

introduced in the past five years, are driving SB's growth. Sales of such products last year were up 37 per cent to £1.54 billion, and margins were maintained at 24.8 per cent in spite of a 19 per cent rise in research and development spending to £703 million.

The star performer was Seroxat/Paxil, the depression and panic disorder treatment that was introduced in 1992. Its sales were up by almost half to £706 million

Five of the company's com-pounds entered Phase 3 trials -the final tests before com-

mercial production — in 1996. SB will not lose any drug

patents until 2002. Hugh Collum, chief financial officer, said that "pricing was still under pressure" at the Clinical Laboratories division in the US. CL's sales were up 2 per cent to £840 million, but this was the result of volume instead of price increases. He denied speculation that CL would be put up

A fourth-quarter interim dividend of 5.85p, up 26 per cent, is to be paid on April 15, making the full-year dividend 17.85p, up 25 per cent.

Shandwick chiefs to set up PR rival

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHANDWICK International. the public relations group, is losing one third of the directors of its City arm. They are quitting to set up a rival company (See Pennington,

this page).

The news sparked speculation that some Shandwick clients may move their accounts, despite an agreement by the defectors not to work for current clients for at least 12

Clients of directors who have left Shandwick include British Gas, Tarmac, Railtrack, Cookson, 3i and the Halifax Lord Chadlington, chairman of Shandwick, is on the Halifax board and that, along with the flotation, makes it an unlikely candidate for switching. But Halifax said

yesterday that it intended to review its PR needs after the float. The contract with British Gas, which was to see it through its demerger, is also about to end. The new consultancy, the

Hogarth Partnership, will be launched on April 1. Chris Matthews, former chief executive of Shandwick Consultants, the City PR arm, will take on the same role at the new firm. Nick Denton, John Olsen and James Longfield will leave at the end of March while Rachel Hirst will stay

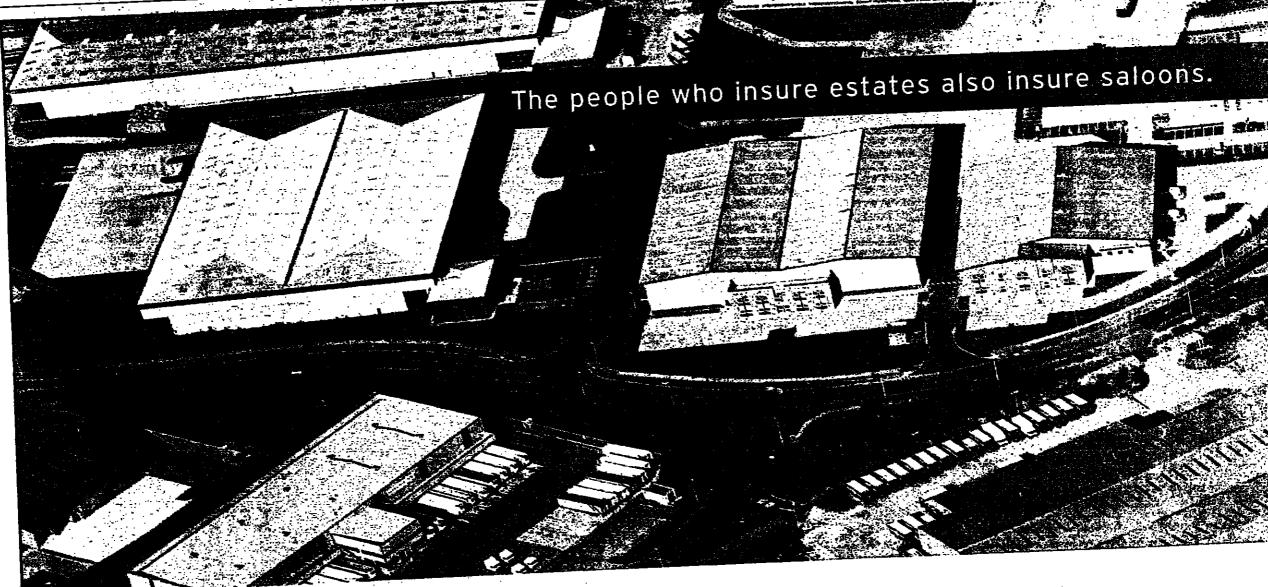
until the Halifax floration. Shandwick Consultants is restructuring into three divi-sions and has appointed Colin Trusler, managing director of Shandwick's UK operations, as temporary chief executive.

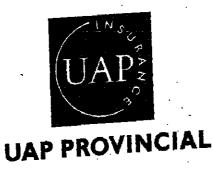
Sedgwick extends RTI stake

SEDGWICK GROUP, the insurance broker, is acquiring a further 50 per cent interest in River Thames Insurance from Transamerica Corpora-tion for up to £14 million (Martin Barrow writes).

Sedgwick will then own 99 per cent of River Thames, which ceased underwriting new business in November 1996 and was put into orderly run-off with immediate effect

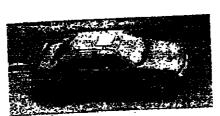
Sedgwick's 1996 pre-tax profits rose 5 per cent to £95.5 million. Earnings eased to 11.6p a share from 12.6p, reflecting a lower tax rate in 1995. With a total dividend of 7.25p a share the underlying dividend for the year is unchanged





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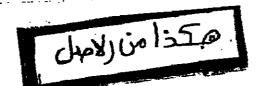
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particular field. No matter what your needs, talk to UAP Provincial, we'll have a policy that's right up your street.







Unilever tipped to take bite at United Biscuits

CITY speculators were run-ning through the old takeover favourites yesterday in their search for possible targets for cash-rich Unilever. At the top of that list is United Biscuits. the McVitie, Crawfords and

KP food group. Last week, Unilever, 2p cheaper at £16.0212, said that it would use the proceeds from the sale of its chemical interests to make several sizeable acquisitions. Failing that, it will return the money to

shareholders. UB. lp dearer at 233p, has risen sharply since the start of the year with a growing number of brokers confident that the long-awaited bid for the company will soon materialise. UB, which has had its fair share of problems in recent years, carries a price tag of £1.2 billion, well within the scope of Unilever, which weighs in at a stockmarket

worth of £32.1 billion. The rest of the equity market saw early gains frittered away after an uncertain start to trading in New York Shares had followed gilts higher first thing, cheered by the admission from Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, that there was less of a need for a rise in interest rates. The FT-SE 100 index closed 5.5 down at 4,332.3 on turnover of 884 million shares.

Centrica, demerged earlier this week from British Gas, continued to lose ground in heavy trading, sliding 134p to 6312p. That stretches the loss during the past two days to 12p with a further 55 million shares changing hands. BG, which includes the exploration and pipeline side of the busiended l¹zp dearer at

Shares of Energy Group began trading at a premium on the grey market ahead of the completion next week of Hanson's three-stage demerger programme. Shares in Energy, made up of Eastern Group in Britain and Peabody in the US, started life at 530p and touched a peak of 54312p before settling just 312p dearer at 53312p on turnover of almost one million shares.

NatWest Securities, the broker, says there is better value elsewhere and it prefers National Power, down 5120 at 50112p. Merrill Lynch comolains there is little synergy

within Energy. There was a lukewarm reception for full-year figures from Barclays Bank showing



Jan Leschly of SmithKline Beecham, up 13p on higher profits

pre-tax profits 13 per cent higher. The final outcome was at the lower end of City forecasts, leaving the shares 7012p lower at Ell.29 after their recent record-breaking run. Brokers said the fall might have been even greater had it not been for a 21 per cent rise in the final payout.

Lloyds TSB continued to make headway as the City

Pradential Corporation 812p off at 56412p.

A 16 per cent increase in profits to £1.57 billion last year at SmithKline Beecham was given the thumbs-up with the shares rising 13p at 89412p. Most of the improvement stemmed from sales of new drugs. But Jan Leschly, chief

holders of 23p. The news left

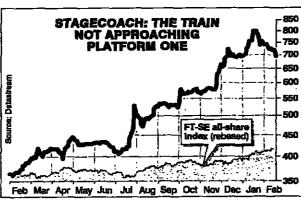
It may be time to take some profits at Boots the chemist after the recent strong run by the shares which has carried them to their highest level. The price fell from a peak of 701p yesterday to close 13p lower at 688p as UBS, the broker, struck the shares off its buy list. Almost four million shares were traded.

reflected on last week's encouraging trading news. It rose 912p to 528p. But there were losses for National Westminster, down 31p to 80312p, and Royal Bank of cotland, 612p cheaper at

Britannic leapt 6612p to a new high of 870p as the group confirmed that the value of its orphan estate would provide a dividend payment to sharegroup lost £5 million for every time sterling strengthened a cent against the dollar.

Clyde Petroleum hardened 2p to 11812p as Guif Canada's E495 million offer went unconditional after receiving acceptances totalling 21.43 per cent. This, combined with the near 30 per cent stake it owns, raises its total holding to 51.42

Williams Holdings rose op



to 305p. The group, which las week made an agreed £1.3 billion bid for Chubb Security. has been talking to fund managers on any worries they may have about the deal. Argos stood out with a rise of 2112p at 695p after some words of encouragement by ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker. Talk of a "buy" note also lifted Reed International The bears have won out in the two-way pull over shares of Scotia Holdings, with the price ending the session 29¹2p

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lower at 650p. Stagecoach fell 2712p to 69212p as the debacle over lost trains on the South West lines gathered pace. Brokers now fear that Opraf, the industry regulator, will levy a hefty fine against the group after it was forced to axe almost 300 trains a week due to lack of drivers The crisis also spilled over into other transport companies with National Express, down 14p at 540 2p, and Go-Ahead

Group 812p lower at 48212p. Morland, the regional brewer famous for Old Speckled Hen, was steady at 592p Its rights issue to raise £22.2 million has been 95 per cent taken up. The proceeds will be used to buy a chain of American diners from Allied

Domecq, lp cheaper at 430p. Infobank International was off to a flying start on ALM after a placing by Collins Stewart at 125p. The price opened at 144p and after touching 150p reverted to 144p.

a rise of 19p.
☐ GILT-EDGED: Bond prices in London enjoyed a firm start, underninned by gains on overseas bond mar-kets and bigger than expected repayment of debt by the Government. The Public Sector Debt Repayment was £5.8 billion in January, the largest repayment in eight years. At one stage the March

series of the long gilt touched a new peak of £114532 before profit-taking cut the lead to £316 at £113916 as a total of 89,000 contracts were completed. Treasury 8 per cent 2015

rose £1332 to £107932, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 put on five ticks at £104932. □ NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street consolidated after recent advances and investors' attention turned to mergers and acquisitions. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 7.70 points lower at 6.981.26.

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	Amsterdam: 735.42 (+3.43)	
	Sydney: 2501.7 (+8.5)	
	Frankfurt: DAX	
	Singapore: 2229.79 (-26.31)	
	Brussels: General 11744.50 (+54.14)	
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Telspec	2421-n (-10n)
Nat West	272 45 (-10p)
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Closing Prices Page 31

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. 540½p (-14p) ... 688p (-13p)

. 716p (-9'ao)

TEMPUS

Poor investment

IT IS a mystery how investment banking has managed to escape the downsizing and cost cutting that has swept through the financial services industry. Personal banking has become a lean business - chastened by the excesses of the Eighties. Barclays closed branches, invested in technology and sacked bank managers. The result is an operation more like a lending factory than a service business and the 35 per cent return on capital from personal lending is proof of its success.

In a sense, the big banks followed the

example of manufacturing industry in the Eighties, shedding non-performing businesses and outdated working practices. But while retail bankers live in fear of head office efficiency measures, investment bankers thrive, demanding more money, more staff and more perks to produce less profit. No

time and motion expert monitors the behaviour of corporate financiers, or questions the success rate of the mergers and acquisitions team in securing mandates. Investment bankers do sometimes lose their jobs - at least some of the additional £45 million in staff costs incurred by BZW was down to redundancy packages. Yet Barclays is still determined to spend more on a business than is destroying shareholder value.

Money is being thrown at BZW in the hope

that it can buy in talent. The strategy is ultimately futile as it demoralises existing staff. It also ignores the fact that investment banking profits are driven not by ingenuity but by market forces. The fattest returns come from deals that walk in the door, but BZW has suffered a downturn in a year of extraordinary corporate activity.

will not reveal the numbers.

Until it does, shareholders

strength is its new products

and the potential of products

in clinical trials. This is likely

to ensure double-digit

growth for many years. In

the short-term, however, the

shares are unlikely to outper-

should be wary.

SmithKline's

Medicaid programs, has not been fully resolved. It is too

early too tell whether CL is

more liability than asset.

Diversified Pharmaceuti-

cals Service, the American

managed care business, is

expanding but not yet profit-

able. Smithkline is optimis-

tic about DPS and its ability

to replicate the service in

SmithKline

SMITHKLINE Beecham's results are the envy of the industry. New products are propelling sales forward, no more patents expire until 2002 and the company has leading positions in over-thecounter products and managed care. Gearing has plummeted while cashflow and interest cover move in the opposite direction. It all

sounds too good to be true. SmithKline still has troubles. It talks of a turnaround in its Clinical Laboratories division but the numbers tell a different story. Sales are up by only 2 per cent, due entirely to volume rather than price increases. The trading profit is up 7 per cent, mostly due to cost-cutting. Meanwhile, CL's main problem, its difficulty in getting reimbursed by government Medicare and

form the sector. other foreign markets, but DRUG-INDUCED HIGH

Britannic

THE success of Britannic in securing shareholder rights. over surplus "orphan" assets has cast a pall over similar efforts by the Prudential. The latter's shares took a tumble yesterday as Britannic announced an 82 per cent dividend increase for shareholders out of a £902 million

surplus agreed with the DTL.
The problem for the Pru is that the DTI took a tough line. over one of Britannic's funds where profits were historically divided up 90 per cent to policyholders and 10 per cent to shareholders. In the past, Britannic's shareholders have not always taken their fee. Even so, the DII has decided that this surplus, estimated to be £58 million, cannot be reclaimed by shareholders. Britannic has said it will only reopen discussions on this particular surplus "in the event of any future clarification of industry practice".

BOLLAR RATES

That clarification is likely to come only if Prudential decides to challenge DTI policy. The Pru has every incentive because the bulk of its estimated £5 billion orphan surplus comes from funds structured under the same 90:10 proportions. However, it faces a difficult task because of an awkward precedent set by the Pearl, which failed to secure from the DTI as much as the

market had hoped. the Pru to fight the DTI line. Nevertheless, its shareholders will demand action - if sary a legal challenge to the DTI; an option unpalatable to other insurers.

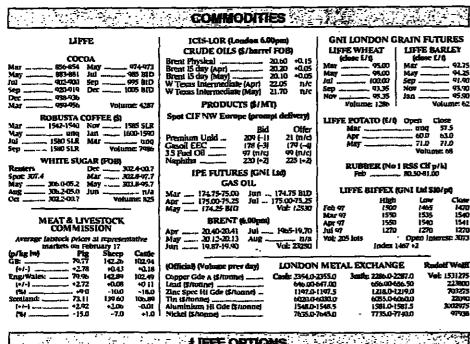
Clyde Pet

NOTWITHSTANDING the quixotic attempt by Clyde's Dutch partner, SHV Energy. to scupper the bid at the last minute. Gulf Canada has won its prize. SHV's motives are obscure but the company dearly felt that its relationship with Clyde in the Netherlands was worth a £5 million bet. In hindsight, the prize will go to those investors who will cash in capital gains of 200 per cent over the space of 18 months.

In the circumstances, it is a credit to Clyde's management that so many investors chose to spurn the Gulf offer which was buoyed by a heat-ed oil sector and frothy crude oil price.

Those investors who chose It will now be difficult for to stick with management cannot have been unaware that the futures market is anticipating a rapid fall in the oil price from \$23 to \$18. Their concern may have been not that the bid was too low but that opportunities to reinvest cheaply in oil stocks are almost non-existent. The entire sector is trading on racy premiums to net asset value and many investors will be only too aware of the potential fall-out for oil shares had the Gulf bid failed.

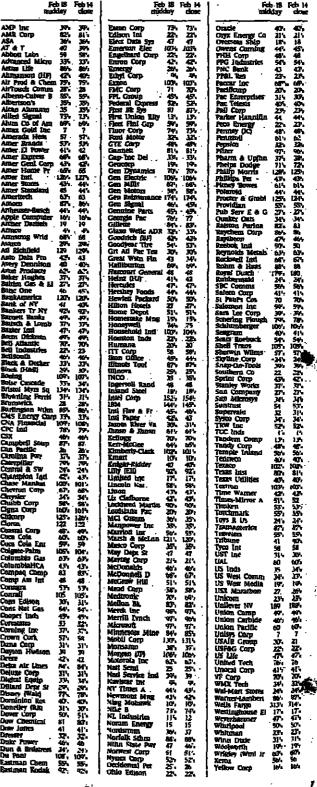
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Frank in ring for new home

FRANK WARREN could be moving to a house near you. The boxing promoter disqualified from serving as a company director for seven years, in the face of allegations including trading while insolvent, has put his gaudy pile on the market for £950,000.

Dubbed "My Little Pony House" by locals, because of its turrets and luminous pink decor, this is where Warren recovered from a near fatal shooting. The Hertfordshire house, advertised in Country Life. through Savills, boasts a swimming pool, gym. sta-bles and three paddocks.



Warren: seeking new residence

Dynamic duo DAVID BUCHEN is to

join NatWest Markets as head of global foreign exchange proprietary trad-ing. Based in the US, his boss will be long-time buddy, Howard Kurz, managing director and head of zlobal foreign exchange. The two met 15 years ago at the Bank of America, and Buchen went on to deliver a speech at Kurz's wedding. The duo will have to wait until the end celebrate their reunion at Le Caprice.

MARTIN TAYLOR was in bullish form yesterday. Asked whether Barclays Bank was likely to join its competition and jump into bed with a supermarket, the chief executive said: "We're not interested in forming a partnership with any other brand name. We think it might Puh-lease.

Fast lane

A RECENT scene outside Warburgs brought memo-ries of the Eighties flooding back. The arrival of three new Porsches forced traffic to an abrupt halt. However, senior salesman Paul Ferry was unable to pick up his Porsche. The poor chap was too bosy soaking up the sun in

Women only

AN invitation to meet the Governor of the Bank of Finland and the Firmish Minister for Employment and visit Lapland is strictly for women journalists only. The Governor and Minister, Sirkka Hamalainen and Liisa Jaakonsaari, are women and interviews will be taking place in a sauna.

Royal memory

CHRIS MATTHEWS will remembered at Shandwick as the man who almost married Diana Princess of Wales. The departing chief executive was chosen by the Daily Star five years 280 as a possible new partner. The lovelorn Princess's personal details were fed to the Dateline computer under an assumed name and Matthews, described as a "well-heeled highflyer with a passion for beautiful blondes, turned up as the ideal match.

The Times challenged AShandwick to a football match over the weekend. True to form, the City PR firm turned up four players short. And the outcome? Three goals to two

for The Times. MORAG PRESTON

Talking telephone numbers to put your letters on the line

Nifty operators are hoping to make a fortune by selling on

figures, says Tom Maddocks

ack in the Fifties, genteel ladies would telephone each other from exchanges called MAYfair or ABBey, while famous numbers, such as WHItehall 1212 for Scotland Yard, were much easier to remember than the everlengthening strings of digits we have

to cope with today.

All that changed with the arrival of
Subscriber Trunk Dialling (STD) calls in the Sixties, and the growth in telephone usage that meant the need to use number combinations with no sensible alphabetical equivalents. New phones were fitted with numbers only, and the letters gradually disappeared from use.

Now, however, they are making a comeback; you will find them on most new phones being sold. A number of young men believe this simple fact will make them very rich indeed.

The idea is to follow a well-tried

business practice in the United States, where exhortations to "dial 1-800 PIZZA" or "1-800 FLOWERS" are common. The biggest player in the market is the Personal Number Company, which floated on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) in September, with a market capitalisation of £10.23 million. It markets numbers beginning with the digits 07000, acting as a service provider for Vodafone, to whom the series has been allocated by Oftel.

PNC's initial sales pitch focused on personal numbers staying with an individual for life. They can be switched through from home to office to mobile at will. For this privilege, callers have to pay a higher charge rate, 14p a minute in peak times, 8p a minute in off-peak.

However, the focus has recently switched to selling number combinations whose alphabetic equivalents spell particular words. The issue is not whether these numbers have a value," Geremy Thomas, PNC's founder and chief executive, maintains, "but of how much people will pay once the idea takes off."

Mr Thomas has already made one fortune from the communications business, founding the Carphone mobile phone group and subsequently selling his stake to Cable and Wireless in 1988. Clearly he now believes another tidy profit is in prospect, although Personal Number Company shares have dipped from 66p at flotation to a recent 52p after a cautious interim statement. They had touched 103p in extremely thin volume.

Sales have been modest until now, with 15,000 subscribers connected by PNC since January 1996. However, interest looks set to explode if Britain follows America, where telephones with letters as well as numbers are once again becoming widely used.



Geremy Thomas, the founder of PNC, is number one in the market

started by the entry of speculators, buying up letter combinations they believe they will be able to sell on later at a huge profit. PNC and its 250 dealers are selling most six-letter combinations for between £120 and £250, with a higher rate for specially attractive combinations such as 07000 ONLINE. On top, there is a monthly service charge of £6.

Speculators are now asking £5,000

The market is now being kick- for 07000 STARTREK and £2,000 for 07000 SEXIER. Combinations such as SALLY or STEVE with the first letter of your surname can be had for a more modest £295 while they last. Words with more than six letters can be allocated; rather disconcertingly though, you are connected before you have finished dialling.

A typical speculator is Adrian Berry, 33, a computer consultant from Berkshire. He has bought 65 numdespite some tempting offers. They include 07000 MIDLAND, NAT-WEST, DIGITAL and ATANDT, all of which he hopes will eventually go for large sums to the companies concerned.

"I was lucky and got in early before they did," he says, "but it is very hard to get in now, as all the big names and obvious combinations have been taken. There are lots of people up and down the country brainstorming, and trying out different numbers to see if they have already been taken. Many of my lines ring several times a day."

Mr Berry says he has received everal serious offers at around the £10,000 level, but is hanging on in the hope that prices will escalate as companies recognise the numbers' commercial value, and in some cases the potential for embarrassment if they fall into the hands of rivals. "I was approached for 07000 AMTRAK today for instance. But in a year the going rate may be more like £100,000."

Nimbler companies, such as Virgin, managed to reserve their own alphanumeric combinations before others thought of trying to cash in. Few are yet marketing to the public this way, although the idea is catching on at the ritzier end of the motor trade. 07000 PORSCHE and VOL-VOS are both in use. A west London travel firm is using 07000 SAFARI.

Direct Line, the telephone-based insurance group, has reserved 07000 DIRECT for future use. The company was unable to confirm rumours doing the rounds among dealers this week that a rival direct insurer has already unsuccessfully offered to buy it for

rices do seem to be steadily moving higher, though. This week, Alistair Reynette-James, a west London James Bond fan, hit the headlines by selling 07000 007 007 to a private detective agency for £50,000.

Darlington-based Liam Green and his partner, Norman Kennedy, trading as 21st Century Communications. have upped the ante considerably by putting the number 07000 MILLEN-NIUM, which they had reserved early last year, on sale with a £1 million

This figure caused hollow laughter among others in the industry, but the pair believe they may already have a buyer. Someone has phoned from The Netherlands saying he represents an international company which may offer the asking price." Mr Green ays. "We are waiting to see if they

These numbers, though, may not be quite the unique asset their proud owners believe. BT, for instance, has recently launched its own personal number series beginning with 07171. There are other codes starting with 07 which can be used with letter combinations," says Mr Thomas, "but we believe we have a big advantage by getting in first with 07000, the most memorable code."

What is hard to discern among all the froth and excitement is just how many serious buyers there are for these series, as opposed to speculators selling on to each other in the hope of fabulous profits that may never



HARRIS

Weighing the 'weightless economy'

7 hat has Yasuo Hamanaka in common with the Governor of the Bank of England? Simply that both have confessed publicly that they were wrong about prices. It is true that . Hamanaka's error about copper prices has cost his lovers, Sumitomo, some \$2.6 billion, and cast a cloud over the London Metal Exchange. The Governor's forecasts for average inflation have, by contrast, simply left him looking provisionally a little silly. But both of them may have made the same fundamental mistake: living in the past.

It used to be safe to say that faster economic growth would lead to faster inflation, led by commodity prices; but the experience of the 1990s suggests that this pealed. So what, you may ask, is new? It is more than a year since Roger Bootle of HSBC published a whole book about the end inflation, and the financial markets are slowly adjusting to a world of more or less stable prices. However, it is one thing to notice that we are off trend, and quite another to suggest that the change may be permanent. It is only recently that Alan Greenspan has made it respectable at least to play with such an idea, and only now that the Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin has produced a catchphrase for

that economic activity is increasingly taking forms which are virtually impossible to measure. You can weigh widgets or cakes, and construct a price index though this is probably misleading, as Greenspan argues, because it takes no account of improved quality. You can count haircuts or transport services even though they have no material content, and estimate output and productivity. But what of goods which exist only in the minds of the buyers? (Consultancy services are one example, the use of the Internet a

the rest of us to latch on to:

What the Bulletin means is

the weightless economy.

trendier one.) Such things account for a significant part of what we call economic growth; and that is a horse of a different

damental change.
The miners of Chile and Zaire noticed this trend years before it caught the eye of the more wide awake central bankers. All through the 1980s the prices of industrial raw materials fell further and further behind expectations, as they failed to repond to booming output. This change was the undoing of all who relied on history to repeat itself: near-ly all the banks in Texas, the International Tin Council. and now, nearly, Sumitomo, The Conference Board, a US industrial think-tank, recently surmised that this is the main reason for the end of inflation, always led in the past by raw costs. Maybe: it takes time to be sure of

an historic tide. Meanwhile, the central banks face another problem: not only can they not be sure what future prices trends are likely to be; they cannot really be sure of anything. Consider: a economic model is built by applying higher ginal changes in output, prices and efficiency. As economic visibility gets poorer, however, these marginal measurements get more and more imprecise, until the whole model looks more and more like a medieval map, distorted in shape and full of terrae incognitae What is most galling, per haps is that technological change is not only make it harder and harder to measure output, but harder and harder to measure money.

🦳 o how do you make monetary policy. The real world answer is guesswork. This answer has proved acceptable in the US, where Alan Greenspan has built such a reputation for judgment that even when he proclaims his ignorance, they will take his word for anything. It is becoming acceptable in London, where markets have been finding, against their instincts, that Kenneth Clarke's hunches are worth more than the Bank's model.

Across the Channel, the Bundesbank has built its reputation on rigid enforcement of some law or other. Dare it now confess the

extraordinary attitude of the

Government towards rail-

ways: we are told it would

open up the system to competi-

Millennium focuses attention on constructing a vision for London

There's nothing to see but contaminated mud," confessed the Greenwich Council official as the coachful of European urban planning specialists drew up by the barbed wire sence separating the future millennium exhibi what the association claims is the largest urban development research project to be carried tion site from the access road. Behind the fence, huge excavators were churning up heaps of earth. Between two derelict buildings on the other side of

the road, Canary Wharf rose in The millennium site, which has just survived a bruising political battle over funding for clearing the former British Gas land and building the proposed exhibition dome, was part of a whistlestop tour of London arranged by the Association of London Government for invited urban experts from Ber-

im, Barcelona and Glasgow. The three-day trip did not feature any areas normally found on tourist itineraries. Catford, Deptford, Woolwich. Stratford, Beckton and Park Royal replaced the Tower of London and the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace as the main attractions. What the association wanted to show its visitors was the progress of various urban regeneration schemes across the capital, where redundant warehouses, factories, railway lines and industrial sites were being converted to new uses to generare jobs, housing and transport links. The Greenwich millennium site and its vital new Jubilee Line and Docklands Light Railway links are just some of the most high profile

schemes being developed by parmerships of public and The Greenwich millennium scheme is among those involving the public and private sectors private-sector interests.

Sara McConnell looks at a study aimed at improving the capital's world city status

out in any city. The 18-month-long London Study has been partly funded by the European Commission, which has con-tributed EII0,000 of the total £500,000 cost. The Corporation of London has contributed £50,000. The aim is to develop a "vision of London" as a liveable and workable city. More widely, the research findings on London will be used as a European model for regenerat-

The research will be taking place against a backdrop of intense debate over the future of London in the run-up to the

general election. Conservative plans for privatising the Un-derground have provoked more heated arguments over the need for more investment in the capital's ageing infrastructure. High unemployment, poor housing and crime in some parts of the capital are a widely recognised problem. The association, which repre-

sents London's 32 boroughs and the City Corporation, is the nearest thing to London govern-ment under the current system. It is setting up a steering committee to co-ordinate the London Study. The Confeder-ation of British Industry and London First, the private-sector campaign group, will take their

places on the committee alongside representatives from the boroughs, central government, the voluntary sector, training and enterprise councils and an observer from the European Commission.

The private sector and business representatives say they are keen to be involved in the study. But they are also wasting no time making clear their concerns about the perceived shortcomings of London's physical and governmental structure and the potentially detrimental effect these could have on London's status as a world city. London First argues: "London produces 19 per cent of the UK's gross national

which the London Study will be officially launched, study hope its backing from Europe and its wide range of participants will generate valuable information and at least ensure it a hearing. Archie Galloway, deputy chairman of policy and resources at the Corporation of London, said: "What will be produced will be a better understanding of how things tick in London." He added: "If we produce a sufficiently robust report, we hope the Government of the day will look at it."

contribution to the UK economy. It is seen overseas as a wealth generator. Londoners put in more than they get out. But try telling that to someone on a bleak council estate in Middlesbrough." This week London First launched a campaign for more investment in Landon's Underground system, determined to make this an electoral issue.

Both the CBI and London First argue for better co-ordination of transport planning and development of capital projects, although they are cautious about the prospect of an elected mayor or a GLC Mark II.

The planners now have until next month to produce reports on possible ways forward for the capital. These will be discussed at a symposium next month at

Those involved with the

But all those involved in the study are aware that the results of their work could end up gathering dust unless the Government of the day has the political will and, more importantly, the money to implement the study's recommendations.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Expressing a view on travel costs From Mr Barry S. Doe This again demonstrates the

Sir, I note that Kevin Bennett. marketing director of National Express, wishes the public to know that the coach is the cheapest way to travel from London to Edinburgh (Business Letters, February 5). We must assume that he would similarly like the public to know that the coach is the cheapest way to travel from London to Leicester, Derby, Nottingham and Sheffield.

The problem is that National Express owns the rail franchise on the latter route. What does Mr Bennett wish his staff at those stations to advise potential travellers?

tion, and then franchises are awarded to the railway's chief (public transport) competitor. Can Mr Bennett's wish be other than to protect his national coach market at the expense of a mere rail route and how can this be in the public interest? Yours faithfully BARRY S. DOE 25 Newmorton Road, Moordown. Bournemouth.

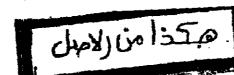
Woolwich perks not worth the candle

From Mrs Norma Teakle Sir. It's not fair! "Henry the Cat" and all his friends and everyone at Woolwich for Kids have sent my daughter, Caroline, a birthday card (and have done for 12 years). They haven't ever sent me one and as far as the Woolwich is concerned, as First Named Person on her Woolwich for Kids account it's me (not her) that's eligible for shares in the forthcoming transfer of the Woolwich Building Society. So I should get the birthday card and not Caroline. Unfortunately, because I have more than one account with the Woolwich I shall only be entitled to one Additional Variable Distribution.

Point of interest, when I opened accounts for both my children no one asked me if I wanted them in their names only and it was the Woolwich who put my name first. Please let John Stewart

(chief executive of the WBS) know that my birthday is August 4. Yours faithfully NORMA TEAKLE, Yew Tree House. Wedmore.





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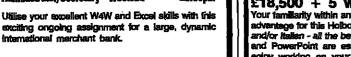
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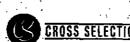
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Asylum seekers have a right to assistance

Folham London Borough Council, Ex parte M Regina v Lambeth London Borough Council, Ex parte P Regina v Westminster City Council. Ex parte A Regina v Lambeth LBC, Ex

parte X Secretary of State for Health. interested party Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Henry

Judgment February 17 Persons who had applied for political asylum after their arrival in the United Kingdom and were thus excluded from a right to income support or housing benefit were entitled to seek assistance from local authorities under section 21(1) of the National Assista Act 1948, provided they fulfilled the

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing appeals by three London local authorities and the Secretary of State for a decision of Mr Justice Collins (The Times October 10, 1996) granting four separate applications for judicial review by applicant asylum seekers against local authorities' refusals of assistance under section 21(i)(a) of the 1948 Act as amended by the Local Government Act 1972, the Housing Homeless Persons) Act 1977, th Children Act 1989 and the National Health Service and Community

Section 21 of the 1948 Act, as amended, provides: "(1) Subject to and in accordance with the pro-visions of this Part of the Act a local authority may with the approval of the secretary of state, and to such extent as he may direct shall, make arrangements for providing: (a) persons aged 18 or over who by reason of age, illness, disability or any other circumstances are in need of care and attention which is not available to them: and (aa) resident ... accommodation for expectant and nursing mothers who are in need of care and attention which is not available to

Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Nigel Giffin for Hammersmith and Lambeth; Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Clive Jones for minster: Mr Nigel Pleming. QC and Mr Steven Kova ecretary of State for Health as interested party: Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Stephen Knaffler for the asylum seekers.

LORD WOOLF giving the judgment of the court, said the court had to determine whether the applicant asylum seekers were entitled to relief under section 21(1)(a) of the 1948 Act.

The problem arose because none of the asylum seekers claimed asylum at the port of entry. although two of them had on the day of arrival. From the coming of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 on August 19, 1996, her they were not entitled

either to public housing assistance or to social security benefits.
Under their terms of entry they were not entitled to take

But it was not the ourpose of the 1996 legislation to deprive affected asylum seekers from all the benefits of the welfare state. It was accepted that they could receive National Health Service treatment. The question was whether they were also entitled to the benefit of section 21(1)(a) relief. The outcome would affect many other seekers in the same

The relevant provisions of the 1996 Act were enacted to reverse the decision of the Court of Appeal in R v Secretary of State for Social Security. Ex parte Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants. Same v Same, Ex parte B (The Times June 27, 1996)

The Act also reversed the effect of R v Kensington and Chelsea Royal London Borough Council, Ex parte Kihara (The Times July

The 1996 Act had defeated the asylum seekers' entitlement to income support and priority housing. But the 1996 Act did not refer to section 21 of the 1948 Act and thus left intact the applicants' rights, if any, under that section. Were it not for the provisions of the 1996 Act the applicants would not have needed to rely the 1948 Act.

Mr Justice Collins had decided that section 21(f)(a) did impose a duty on local authorities to provide for the applicants if satisfied they had no other means of support. b the instant appeal the local authorities contended that the section had a narrower interpretation than that applied by the judge.

The parties accepted that the nstant appeal was a test case, so the court was not primarily concerned with the applicants' dividual circumstances. The local authorities had made interim arrangements to care for the applicants pending the court's

His Lordship gave brief details of the situation of each of the ry initials to protect them and their families in the countries from which they had sought asylum. Some were completely destitute and friendless and had been sleeping rough. Charities could provide little help because they were swamped by the numbers

The other aspect of the problem was the effect on local authority finances. There were 50,000 utstanding asylum applications. 40 per cent of which were made by those who had already entered the

The policy of the secretary of state was to allow access to publicly funded benefits only to asylum seekers who claimed asylum on arrival in the United Kingdom or where it was certified there had been a fundamental change of circumstances in the asylum seeker's home country.

The rationale behind the policy

to be bogus, but it could not sensibly be argued that all claims not so made were bogus.

The horrendous plight of the asylum seekers in applicants' poson could and should provoke deep sympathy, but that could not help in the interpretation of section 21 of the 1948 Act. That Act had replaced 350 years of the Poor Law and was a prime example of an Act which was "always speaking". Accordingly, it should be construed by continuously updating its wording to allow for changes

since the Act was written. Mr Pannick had submitted that it should be interpreted to reflect the general approach of the Poor Law and the 1948 Act when it was enacted, the noble purpose being that those who were in need should not be without all assistance.

The section in its present form made no reference to duty and said that the local authority "may" make arrangements with the ap-proval of the secretary of state and o such an extent as he might

The current approvals and directions were published as appendix I to Department of Health circular MO.LAC (93)10. They approved the making of arrangements by local authorities in relation to persons with no settled residence. directed local authorities to provide residential accommodation for persons in urgent need. They directed the provision of temporary accommodation persons in urgent need which could not reasonably have been foreseen and approved the pro-vision of accommodation for the

Those directions demonstrated that the secretary of state was adopting a generous approach to nation of the section. His Lordship also referred to other Acts relating to the provision of accommodation for persons in

Mr Beloff had correctly submit-ted that the effect of the legislation was to provide three separate solutions for three different problems: lack of resources, lack of care and attention and lack of accommodation.

The local authorities argued that the purposes of section 21(1)(a) was not to provide money for those in need of money or to provide accommodation for those who needed accommodation per se but to provide accommodation for those who required care and attention. Such persons could be rich and own their own homes but still could need the local authority's assistance as a means of providing the required care and

From that base the local authorities argued that it was only necessary to take one further and final step. They contended that eekers' needs were for food and accommodation, not for care and attention and con-sequently they could not avail themselves of section 21(1).

Clearly that was too broadly stated. A late-claiming asylum

seeker who was old, ill or disabled could certainly rely on the section. But the fact that asylum seekers had a need for food and accommodation which would but for the

statutory prohibition contained in the 1996 Act be met under other statutory provisions did not mean that they could not qualify as having a problem which resulted in their needing care and attention The local authorities contended

that "any other circumstances" meant circumstances of the same quality as "age, illness or dis ity", applying the ejusdem generis rule of statutory construction. But their Lordships inclined to the view that that was not Parliament's intention.

The Poor Laws had provided for assisting by providing work for naintain themselves and their Lordships accepted Mr Pannick's submission that Parliament's general approach was that those in need should not be without all eiusdem generis rule would not apply.

But even if it were applicable, the rule provided limited assistance to the local authorities. It was said that the effect of the rule was to focus on personal characteristics rather than external circumstance characteristics could be caused by

One of the asylum seekers' problems was that they had to sleep rough and go without food. That could bring about illness and disability which could result in their needing care and attention which is not otherwise available

The destitute condition to which asylum seekers could be reduced as a result of the 1996 Act coupled with the period of time which. despite the secretary of state's best efforts, elapsed before their applications were disposed of, meant inevitably that they could

Regina v Birmingham City

Council, Ex parte A (a Minor)

Before Sir Stephen Browni,

Where neither facts nor law were

in dispute and the chief ground for

complaint was the way in which a local authority had failed, through

delay, to carry out its duties

mwards a child in need in its area.

the appropriate course was to seek

relief under the complaints proce-dure provided by section 26 of the

Sir Stephen Brown, President of

the Family Division, so held when

dismissing an application for ju-

dicial review by A. a minor, by her

mother and next friend, for a

Council had erred in law in not

acting with reasonable diligence

expedition to ensure that A

[Judgment February 10]

authorities could properly regard as being persons whose needs they had a responsibility to meet under section 21(1)(a).

It followed that in general the judge's approach was correct and the appeal should be dismissed. However, section 21(1)(a) was not a safety net on which anyone who was short of money or accommodation could rely. Asylum seekers were not entitled merely because they lacked money and accommodation to claim they automatically qualified under section

What they were entitled to claim, as a result of the 1996 Act, was that they could as a result of their predicament after they arrived in the United Kingdom reach a state where they qualified under the subsection because of the effect upon them of the problems under which they were labouring.

To their lack of food and

their inability to speak the language, their ignorance of Britain and the fact that they had been bject to the stress of coming to this country in circumstances which at least involved their contending to be refugees. Inevitably the combined effect of

those factors with the passage of

time would produce one or more of

the conditions specifically referred to in section 21(1)(a). It was for the ocal authority to decide whether they qualified The section should enable assistance to be provided at least in the case of some asylum seekers. It meant an added burden had been placed on local authorities which but for the 1996 Act would have been met in part by central government. But that was not a

could give any relief. Solicitors: Mr C. T. Mahoney. Hammersmith and Mr J. Curran, Lambeth: Mr C. Wilson, Westminster; Treasury Solicitor; Clore

Complaints procedure preferred

was placed in appropriate accom-

modation under section 20 of the

The applicant, who was now

aged 15, had entered a psychiatric

mit in June 1995 for assessment

By April 1996 her doctor had

formed the view that it was

imperative a special foster place-

ment should be found for her as

However that proved to be

extremely difficult and to date she

remained in the unit, albeit vol-

untarily as no care order had been

made, with her condition deteri-

Mr Ian Wise for the applicant;

THE PRESIDENT said that.

vhile the application for judicial

review was not to be considered

unwarranted because it had

Mr Roger McCarthy, QC, for the

respondent authority.

Children Act 1989.

soon as possible.

consequence for which the court

Order inconsistent with council's care plan

In re D and H (Minors) Children in care: Termination of contact

Before Lord Justice Nourse and Mr Justice Cazalet Judgment February 61

in the course of family proceedings it was wrong for a judge to make an order under section 34(2) or (5) of the Children Act 1989 phasing out contact between a mother and her children when such an order was inconsistent with the local authority's recommendations for the children set out in its care pla

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments granting the mother's application for leave to appeal and allowing her appeal from part of an order made by the that contact between her and her two young daughters, in respect of whom the judge had made care orders, he reduced in continue of the local authority and terminated on their

Mr James Simpson for the mother, Mrs Roberta Holland for the local authority: Mr Jonathan P. Swift for the guardian ad litem.

MR JUSTICE CAZALET said that the mother had three children. a son born in 1989 and two daughters born in 1991 and 1993 respectively. Each had a different father. The mother did not live with any of the the three fathers and none had a parental respon-

In 1994, in circumstances raising serious concerns as to general neglect by the mother, an interim care order was made in respect of all three children. Thereafter the local authority had sought care orders in respect of the two girls and a supervision order in respect

The mother, while not opposing

Delay of itself was not some-

thing which amounted inevitably

to an error in law; it was necessary

of the delay and in a judicial

review hearing it was not possible to investigate those properly.

it was not a case where the law

eeded clarification; nor would the

declaration sought have the effect-

of meeting the applicant's needs. It was not disputed that the authority

had a duty to provide accommoda-tion under section 20 of the 1989

The correct approach, therefore, was to seek the alternative remedy

under the complaints procedure provided by section 26 of the 1989

Solicitors: Graham Pearce & Co.

Solihull: - Mr Stewart - Dobson,

Act and that there had

cceptable delay.

Birmingham.

to know the precise circumstance

priate in this instance.

résolute in her wish to continue to have contact to the two girls.

The local authority in its joint care plan for the girls was fire the view that placement in a longterm fostering family had to be its primary aim since that would enable there to be continuing contact between the girls, their

mother and the extended family. It was apparent from his judg-ment that the judge favoured adoption: having made the care orders, in paragraph 3 he directed that pursuant to section 34 of the 1989 Act contact between the two irls and their mother be reduced in the discretion of the local uthority and terminated olacement".

The guardian ad litem was firmly of the view that both girls had such a need for stability and security that the only proper course was to place them for adoption and phase out contact.

Thus before the judge there had been a clear clash of views between the guardian and the local authority as to the desirability of contact with the mother continuing

Before the Court of Appeal, Mr Simpson submitted that the care plan was clearly inconsistent with the judge's order terminating contact upon placement of the girls. Against that the local authority intained that the judge was fully entitled to express his views as to contact and its termination and it would simply take those views into account in carrying out

the care plan.
It was not in dispute that the judge had power to make the order terminating contact as he had pursuant to section 34(2) and (5) of the 1989 Act.

ropriety of making such orders in such circumstances could be derived from In re CN (a Minor) (Care order) [1992] 2 FCR 401): In re J' (Minors) (Care: Care plan) [1994] 1 FLR 253): In re T (a Minor) (Care order: Conditions) [1994] 2 FLR 423 and In re E (a Minor) (Care order: Contact) [1994] 1 FLR

Further, in In re B (Minors) (Termination of contact: Para-mount consideration) (1993 Fam 301) Lord Justice Butler-Sloss had emphasised that while Parliament had given the court, and not the local authority, the duty to decide

Act, the proposals of the local authority had to command the greatest respect and consideration from the court

in the instant case the judge, although he summarised the evi-dence in detail, had not assessed carefully the case which the local authority had advanced as the main plank for its care plan. He did not explore the question of whether there might be some difficulty arising from the boy seeing the girls when the mother did not, neither did he put into the scales the fact that contact to the mother had recently improved.

Moreover, given that he was going to terminate contact on cement, the judge before making such a strong order in carrying ing such a strong crue in carrying out the balancing exercise should have expressly dealt with the various advantages which continuing contact by the two girls to their mother might have brought

Furthermore, in this case, contact was not a matter of degree within a proposed framework. The judge took a course which for the reasons given by Mr Justice Ewbank in In re C N was in any event ill-advised but in fact necessi-tated that a fall-back situation of adoption, with contact terminating on placement, became the sole permitted object of the care plan, replacing the primary long-term fostering proposal with contact to the mother.

Given that the judge was to make the care order then, follow-ing In re J. in order to avoid a clear monsistency between a major part of the care plan and his order terminating contact on placement the judge should have made an order under section 34(4) authorising the local authority to refuse contact.

The appropriate course was to allow the mother's appeal by discharging paragraph 3 of the judge's order. The local authority had already issued an application to the court under section 2d/41 for to the court under section 34(4) for it to refuse to allow contact.

All parties were agreed that in the event of the appeal being allowed that application would go ahead with any application for further contact which the mother might be minded to make pursuant to section 34(3) being heard at the same time.

Lord Justice Nourse agreed.

Proclivity is not probative

Propensity)

The case of R v Wright ((1990) 90 €r App R 325) should be more widely known. In it Lord Justice Mustill said (at p331) that in a case where e was whether the act alleged by the complainant ever took place it had never been the policy of the English criminal law that "evidence is admissible that fendant ... could be shown through the possession of incriminating articles or otherwise, to

have a learning towards such acts." The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Dyson and Mr Justice Timothy Walker) so stated on January 27, when allowing the appeal of a grand father aged 68 and quasting his conviction at Oxford Crown Court on July 12, 1996 (Judge Corrie and a jury) of indecent assaults on his

LORD JUSTICE ROSE said it

was submitted for the appellan magazines of a pornographic homosexual nature, and questions should not have gone before the jury.
That submission was supported

trial. It appeared in Archbold but was not identified there as bearing In their Lordships' judgment

appellant's answers were probative of anything save propensity and, following Wright, evidence of them should not have been

Correction

In Tabarrok v E. D. C. Lord & Co (The Times February 14) the solicitors for the respondents were E. D. C. Lord & Co. Hayes.



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Today we feature 33 destinations to Western Europe (there are also 12 cities in Germany) which you can visit by taking advantage of our offer. A full list of all 118 places you can go to was published last week. This could be an opportunity to visit a new country or return to a favourite city and save up to 50%. All the fare prices listed, right, are for two people travelling together.

HOW TO APPLY FOR YOUR FLIGHTS

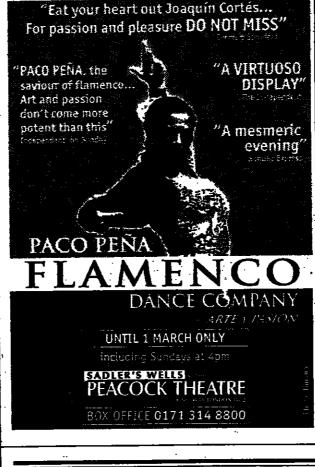
Collect six differently numbered tokens, five from The Times and one token from The Sunday Times (it appeared last Sunday). Send your tokens, to arrive before Monday, March 3, with the application form which will be published again on Saturday. Within 21 days you will receive an information pack with book-

THE FLIGHTS **OFFER TOKEN 9** Lufthansa ing instructions and your discount voucher. Full terms and conditions appeared on Monday, February 10 and will be in your information pack. "The offer does not apply to Business Class between UK/Ireland and Germany.

*Frances Class travel to long-haul destinations herween July I and August 31 is excluded and there will be limited availability at Easter. †Surcharges apply to UK/Ireland flights to Germany.

ALL PRICES QUOTED ARE FOR TWO PEOPLE FROM BIRMINGHAM, DUBLIN, LONDON, MANCHESTER, GLASGOW TO WESTERN EUROPE £55£

CHANGING TIMES



Lady Margaret Elizabeth Bradbeer, of

and the Duke of Northumberland.

Shilvington; Ian McArthur of North Broo

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES LEGAL NOTICES LEGAL NOTICES NORTHUMBERLAND LIEUTENANCY LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES The following have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants for the County of Northumberland

TO PLACE POTICES FOR THE SECTION

Modstock re

land of pand and glory



POP 1

On the eve of the Brit Awards the pop industry is already celebrating, thanks to bands like the Spice Girls



POP 2

Galway plays host to the Aloof, whose sleepy cocktail of trip-hop, dub and rock grooves delights the crowd

THE TIMES



RISING STAR

Composer Jane Gardner is Scottish and a woman, but it certainly hasn't done her career any harm



OFFER

Theatre Club members are invited to join in Radio 3's Stravinsky celebrations

On Monday, the Brit Awards will pay tribute to an astounding British success story. Plus, pop reviews

Land of pop and glory

David Sinclair on why the bosses of the popular music industry are

in a mood to party these days

he British music industry, for so long the black sheep of the business community, is at last being recognised as one of the country's conspicuous success stories. Coinciding with the triumph of Spice Girls in America - which this week became the thirty-first country where their debut single Wannabe has reached No I — the publication of the trade figures for 1996 has marked a sea change in per-ceptions of the industry. What-ever happens at Monday's Brit Awards - the industry's annual gong-giving gala at which the nation's pop stars traditionally disport themselves with all the social grace of a baboon colony - the music business has gained dramatic new respect, if not respectability.

The figures speak for themselves. Britain is the world's fourth largest music market (after America, Japan and Germany). While the global music business has generally been flat over the past year, the value of British record sales rose by 6.1 per cent, more than twice the rate of inflation and substantially more than comparable markets such as Japan (3 per cent), America (1 per cent) and France (-0.01 per cent). According to a report in Sunday Business, the British music industry is now worth £2.5 billion a year, generating more money for the econom than shipbuilding, electronic

ivity is not

Confection

bative

components and water supply. About 30 per cent of the music industry's output is exported, well above the average for the economy as a whole, which is roughly 8 per cent. A 1995 report by British Invisibles on the overseas earnings of the music industry estimated that it made a net surplus of £571 million, equivalent to the overseas earnings of the steel industry.

More difficult to quantify is how seriously the music business is now being taken and its executives recognised as the captains of industry that they undoubtedly are. Paul Conroy, managing director of Virgin Records UK, points out that, with an election round the corner, politicians of every hue have been wooing the industry in recent weeks.

They're all taking the Clintonesque view. Fifty of us went up to the House of Commons the other week to have our Tony Blair chat-ette. Virginia Bottomley has been making speeches at MTV presentations. In all the years I've been in the industry, I've never known such attention.

iven the music industry's continuing strength and vitality (1995 was also a record year), the real surprise is that it has not been taken more seriously before now. Its lack of credibility is part of a lingering mindset in certain establishment quarters that regards popular music as a lowbrow and culturally insignificant pursuit.

These days the music indus-

try is indeed virtually synonomous with popular music. According to a recent British Phonographic Industry analysis, recordings by pop, rock and accounted for 78.3 per cent of total album sales. The combined album sales of easy listening, country, jazz, folk, reggae and blues accounted' for a further 13.4 per cent, while sales of classical music totalled just 7.4 per cent. Sales of singles, meanwhile, are virtually all accounted for by popular-based music genres.
Politicians have paid lip-



A bed of English roses: Spice Girls' debut single Wannabe has gone to No 1 in 31 countries, part of a remarkable renaissance in the fortunes of the British pop music industry

service to the music industry in the past," says international marketing consultant Ion Webster, "But they didn't really want to be involved. But now they see what it's worth and that it's something we're good at. Also, political leaders are now much more attuned to popular music. Edward Heath Tony Blair played in a rock band. Popular music is something the new establishment people have grown up with."

The other obvious attraction of supporting the popular music industry is that it does not cost anything. Unlike the "highbrow" and other arts, the pop business is perfectly able to support itself. "It's not like Dickie Attenborough turning up at No 10 saying, 'Can we have another £10 million for seedcorn capital to make Brit-ish films? We don't need it."

Dave Laing, a research fel-low at the University of Westminster, is one of many commentators who regard popular music as absolutely ital to the chimial as well as the economic wellbeing of Britain. "It's not part of the established arts, with the established structures of support and training. It is music from below, and there are a very large number of young, what we used to call working-class people involved in it. And that is important in the context of future patterns of work and

the continued blurring of the

dividing lines between work and leisure.

Stuart McAllister, the chairman of HMV Worldwide. notes that while sales of records by some of our more established acts, such as Sting, Phil Collins and Simply Red. seem to be slowing up, it is our younger acts that have interest in British music abroad. "It seems to be tied in with a fascination with British fashion in a more general sense. When you see new pop bands like Spice Girls, Bush and Worlds Apart doing so well in America and Europe, you feel that something interesting is aloot."

"Creativity is a cyclical process," says Paul Burger, CEO

Giving satisfaction

The Aloof

Galway

of Sony Music and chairman of the Brits. We've been fortunate in that our creative upswing has coincided with a creative downswing in some of the other major markets. Things were flat here three or four years ago when the American music industry was in the middle of the Seattle music scene. Now things have gone a bit flat in America. while things have been percolating at a much higher level here. So now the Americans and the Europeans are taking a much closer interest in

what's happening here."

spends a large part of the night standing motionless, clutching the microphone with

both hands - the band play in

front of a video screen display-

ing psychedelic images or

documentary clippings appo-

site to each song.
The mugshots for Society

were the most visually striking

but it is in the lyrics that the

Aloof are at their most cine-

matic. With heartfelt tales of

physical and spiritual poverty

they render darkness visible with atmospheric keyboards,

spacious guitar and a sinuous

• The Brit Awards take place on Monday at Earls Court. Highlights can be seen on ITV on Tuesday at 8pm.

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERS

Old Vic Feb 17-22

LONDON Festivai Hail

March 7, 22
STRAVINSKY — who better? is the composer whose work l to launch its three year review of the music of the 20th century. and Theatre Club members are invited to join in the celebrations. We have obtained a limited number of reserved box seats for the concerts to be given by the BBC Symphony Or-chestra, conducted by Andrew Davies, and members will be able to meet members of the orchestra at a pre-concert

The first concert, on Friday, March 7, comprises Per-sephone, the meludrama set to words by Andre Gide, and the opera-oratorio, Oedipus Rex. On Saurday, March 22, Stravinsky's opera, The Rake's Progress, with words by W.H. Auden, stars Barry Banks and William Shinell. Tickets cost £11 per person per concert. To book, please send a cheque, made payable to the BBC Symphony Orchestra, to reach Lisa Owen-Jones, BBC Symphony Or-chestra, Delaware Road, London W9 2LG by Feb 28

ADD to your enjoyment of these two magnificent week-ends of music by taking advanrage of the Theatre Club's hotel package. On March 7 one nights accommodation, with English breakfast, in a double or twin room at the four-sta-Radisson Edwardian Grafton Hotel on Tottenham Court Road, costs £55 per person. For the March 22 concert, two nights' accommodation costs 199 per person. With both packages you will also receive free entry to the Theatre Museum at Covent Garden, a free copy of The Theatre magazine and discount dining vouchers. To book your accommodation rase call 0800 335588, quoting

0171-928 7616 ON TOUR THIS is Enid Blyton's centenary year, and club members can save 20 per cent on tickets for The Famous Five at:

SAMUEL and Timothy West play Hal and Falstaff in Eng-lish Touring Theatre's ac-claimed production of Henry IV Parts 1 and 2 Members can

buy tickets for EI9 (normally £24) for either play or see both for just £30 (normally £43). Tel

THE

MANCHESTER Palace Theatre March 10-13. 2pm. 6pm. Tickets normally £5 to £9. Tel 0161-242

EASTBOURNE Devonshire Park Theatre March 3-b. 2,30pm, 6,45pm, Normally £5,50 to £7,50. Tel 01323 412000

YORK Grand Opera House April 7-10. 2pm. bpm. Normally £4.50 to £9. Tel 01904 671818 CROYDON

Asheroft Theatre May 25-29, 2.30pm, 7.30pm. Normally £9 to £13.50. Tel 0181-688 9291

GLASGOW **Pavilion Theatre** April 28-May I. 2pm, 7pm. Normally £5 to £9. Tel 0141-332

TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.D. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8JL, or telephone 01206 225145 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general

Woodstock regained

mbling onstage at the Jazz Cafe, and before he A Jazz Cafe, and Delute up plays a note, Richie Havens goes into a ten-minute rap about his first meeting with Bob Dylan in a Greenwich Village coffee house in 1962. After 40 minutes and half a dozen stories, Havens has not even started his fifth song. As each number averages between three and four minutes, you can tell he talks a lot. But nobody really minds; he is an entertainer rather than merely a singer and they are all good stories.

Yet we could have done with a little more music, for Havens still possesses a fine voice, capable of both improbable sweetness on songs such as God Bless the Child and a valvet grittiness on All Along the Watchtower. And nobody plays an acoustic guitar like him, with his open runings and hammering style. At first you look around to find the conga player, but there is only Paul Williams, a highly capable second guitarist. The percussion comes entirely from Havens's slapping right hand. He is still unfashionably

on Jackson Browne's Lives in the Balance. He closed, of course, with Freedom, his Woodstock anthem, and if you closed your eyes it was easy to imagine you were back in the mud on Max Yasgur's farm.

pnean Sheik is causing quite a stir in America. In the wake of Alanis Morissette's success, new singer-songwriters have become an almost entirely female breed and the reappearance of the male of the species comes like a rare, out-

of season butterfly.

Just as Sheik's first single,

Barely Breathing, has fluttered effortlessly into the Billboard Top 30, he was possibly unwise to abandon the promotional round at home for four low-key dates in Britain. But his doing so was our gain.

On a damp night at the Varsity in Wolverhampton. his warm voice carried the traces of his Carolina upbringing but his influences are unmistakably British. The beguilling melodies, the lush

committed to political causes and he burns with a mission ancholy lyrics call to mind the tragic figure of Nick Drake. But Drake died more than 20 years ago and Sheik is very much a voice for the restless 1990s: there is a balance between fragility and robustness, and his lyrics are never self-indulgent.

Sheik brought with him only a percussionist and bassist but he augmented songs such as In the Absence of Sun with a tape of Simon Hale's sensuous string arrangements from his self-titled debut alburn. Yet he also showed an ability to rock out, particularly on the catchy Barely Breath-ing. His melodic tone poems tread an emotional tightrope but so far he is keeping his footing admirably.

WILLIAMSON | was here to see a group who

WITH a couple of hundred Valentine's-night revellers crammed between its walls,

the temptation to call the venue in the Warwick Hotel the Ballroom of Romance was almost irresistible. But in truth, it was a curious setting for a 1990s dance/rock act to perform. Its half-dusted chandeliers seemed like a relic from a bygone era, the brief liaison between the venue and its guests a symbolic meeting of the old and modern Ireland. For the quaint, charming

ballroom is a reminder of more innocent times when loveless sex and alcohol-induced despair were unthinkable as subjects for popular songs to be heard on the radio. But the clientele which passed through its doors on this, the second of a four-day techno/rock festival in the city,

fearlessly document, in songs like Abuse and One Night Stand, today's apathetic,

drug-addled society. This was the third time that Galway had played host to the Heineken Weekender, and despite the late cancellation of its main showcase act, Tricky, it was widely regarded as the

best to date. The Alcof's music is a sleepy cocktail of trip-hop, dub and conventional rock grooves and with last year's Sinking, they produced an unsettling but deeply satisfying collection that is at least on a par with Tricky's Maxinguaye album.

As if to compensate for their rather unimposing stage presence - singer Ricky Barrow

rhythm section providing the oundtrack. After the Scottish leg of their UK tour, they reach London on March 7 and end in Plymouth on March 15. You are advised to get on intimate terms with the Alcoi. NICK KELLY

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament: JANE GARDNER

Age: 27.

Profession: Contemporary composer.

Current work: Five of her song settings receive their world premiere with the Endymion Ensemble at the Queen Elizabeth Hall next Wednesday in Passages, a Women's Playhouse Trust presentation on the theme of rootlessness.

What's her experience? She studied under Sir Peter Maxwell Davies and James Mac-Millan, and has written for the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Scottish National Ballet. Maxwell Davies recommended her for a Gulliver Award bursary for producing a big score. But it

her to Indonesia to study gamelan for three months. "I have to admit it hasn't done me any harm being Scottish and being a woman," she says disarmingly.

What's next? She has received a Scottish Arts Council award for The Twelve Dancing Princesses, a music and dance piece based on the Grimm fairytale to be performed by the Paragon Ensemble in Edinburgh later this year.

What would her alternative career be? Arts administrator, although by necessity rather than choice. "It's one thing being a composer and

young composers which took never gets performed if her to Indonesia to study someone doesn't do the administration and raise a production budget. I'm doing that at the moment and it's a learning process."

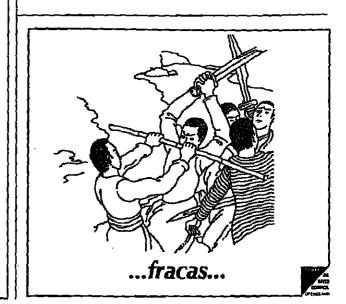
> Where does she find inspiration?" I love working in the theatre, with film directors or with choreographers. I haven't worked with a visual artist and I'd like to do that. I love being with people and communicating. I'm not one of those composers who lock themselves away from the

> Long-term ambitious? "I'd like to develop in television and film music, which is more immediate, more spontaneous."



And? "Well, I'd like to write an opera one day."

NIGEL Williamson





CHOICE 1

The South Bank celebrates the music of György Ligeti VENUE: Tonight at the Queen Elizabeth Hall



CHOICE 2

Ralph Fiennes heads the cast in a new staging of Chekhov's Ivanov VENUE: Opens tonight at the Almeida Theatre

THE



■ THEATRE 1

Jane Asher joins the cast in Doug Lucie's play about the excesses of Fleet Street, The Shallow End

THEATRE: Doug Lucie's new parody of the press premiered; plus the return of a Sixties fable



■ THEATRE 2

Murray Schisgal's Luv is an intimate and amusing urban fable, and as neafly. crafted as a Broadway joke

LONDON GRITISH COMPOSERS: A weekly series of 12 free concerts begins today. and takes place on subsequ tays, to comple exhibition Variations on a Theme 150 Years of Breish Composers, Today's rectal features songs by Warlock and Delus, performed by two singers from the Royal Academy of Music. National Portrait Gallery National Portrait Gallery (Photography Gallery), St Martin's Place, WCZ (0171-306 0055). Today, 3pm

CLOCKS AND CLOUDS: Returns only for this evening's concert (7 45pm) — the third of eight — calebrating the music of György Logal. However, there are still tokets available to the preconcert recital (6pm) by the prenest Pierre-Laurent Armand, who plays Ligeti's complete Etudes, Armard is joined by the soprano Soyile Ehlert for the composer's Mysteries of the Macabre, in the world premiere of a version for voice and plano. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank. SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tanıştılı, 6pm and

WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF HITT WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF HIT His this comedy by Mane Jones. directed by Parn Brighton, with Marie Jones and Elsen Polick as two women devoted to the singer Daniel O'Donnell, and Phelim Drew as the young waiter who answers their fantases Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836)

[3 AS YOU LIKE IT: Steven Pimioti's superbly cast production from this year Strationd comes to London where it will run until March. Berbleam, Sik Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Tonight and tomorrow. 7.15pm; mat Thurs, 2pm in rep (2)

■ GUYS AND DOLLS. Richard Eyre revives his famous production of the Frank Loesser musical, the Ida Fram. Loesser missaud. Interior Staumton recreates her role of Miss Adelande With Harry Goodman, Clarke Paties and Joanna Riding National (Given), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252), Mon-Sat, 7 15pm; mats Tue, Wed, Thurs, 2pm, Sat, 2pm. M HEATHCLIFF: Panned by the cntics, loved by the tens, Cliff Richard's musical treatment of Wathering Height reaches London after an extensive national tour Helen Hobson plays

reaches but reast Housen pays Cally, with songs by Tim Rice and direction by Frank Dunlop. Labattis Apolito, Cueen Caroline Street. Hammersmitt, W6 (0171-416 6050) Mon-Set, 8pm Until April 5 ☐ HENRY IV PARTS 1 AND 2: Father and son Timothy and Samuel West play and son I inform and Samuel west play Falsaff and young Prince Hall in the English Touring Theatre production by Stephen Linwen Olid Vie, Waterloo Roed, SE1 (0171-928 7516) In rep Mon-Sat, 7 30pm. Both parts play on Thus

☐ LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR: Neil Simon's turny account of working among a learn of scriptwriters

NEW RELEASES CONSPIRATORS OF PLEASURE Eye-catching excursion into people's private obsessions from Czech surrealist Jan Svankmajer. Everyman (0171-435 1525) ICA Cinema (0171-930 3647)

◆ FIERCE CREATURES (PG) Broad se and A Fish Called W Ciesse and A Fish Califed Wands learn. With New Kine, Jamie Lee Curts. Director, Robert Young.
ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772) Emphre (0990-898 990) Odeon Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) UC Whiteleys (3) (0990 888990) Virgins: Futhern Roed (0171-370 2636) Trocadero (3) (0171-434)

HAMLET (PG): Lavish, Meral-minder Shakespeare, staged with some panache by Kenneth Branagh, With Derek Jacobrand Kate Winslet os Maylair (0171-369 1720)

◆ HARRIET THE SPY (PG) Precoclous girl spies on friends and elders. Unattractive American family fürn, with Rosie O'Donnell. UCI Whiteleys (5) (0990 888990) Virgin Trocadero (5) (0171-434 0031)

+ IN LOVE AND WAR (15): Romantic drama from Richard Attentionough. based on Ernest Herningway's wartime filing with a Red Cross nurse. With Sandra Bullock and Chris O'Donnell. Odeone: Kensington (0181-315 4214 Marbie Arch (0181-315 4216) Swiss CINEMA GUIDE

films in London and (where nelicated with the symbol ◆) or release across the country

Whiteleys (0990-888 990) Virgins Chelses (0171-352 5096) Haymark (0171-839 1527) Warner West End

◆ SHE'S THE ONE (15) Slight but amiable lamely comedy from Edv Burns, director of The Brothers McMullen With Cameron Disz. ABC Tottlenham Court Road (0171-315 4214) Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220) West End (0181-315 4221) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys ((0990 882990)

TREES LOUNGE (15): Steve TREES LOUNGE [15]: Sieve Buscern's vibrant and among portrait of bornig lives in a Long Island town. With Anthony La Paglia, Chice Sevigny. ABCas Baker Street (0171-935 9772) Tottenham Court Road (0171-836 6148) Clephem Picture House (0171-498 3323) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) Screen on the Green (0171-225 3520) Virgins: Pulltam Road (0171-370 2636) Hayararkat (0171-839 1527)

CURRENT

GUILDPORD: Prunella Scales, Richard Johnson, Saeed Jalfray open the pre-London tour of Stayling On, Paul Scott's end-paeca to The Raj Quantat. Adapted by Ken Taylor, scriptwriter for The Jawel in the Crown, Directed by 440000). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm. Until

Merch 1 Next in Cardiff, New (01222 678689), Merch 10-15 rdiff. New 🗿 LIVERPOOL: Peler Lawson ions the Royal Liverpool Prilitermonic Orchestra for Mozar's Piano Concerto No 24 Bruckner's atmosphere Seventh Symphony completes the programme The conductor is Tadaeki Otaka.

LONDON GALLERIES British Museum: Modern Scan-dinawan Prints (0171-636 1555) .

THEATRE GUIDE

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment

9987) Previews begin tonight, 7 45pm; mats Thurs (Feb 27) and Sat (Feb 29), 3pm. Opens March 3, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7 45pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

Walter, Bill Palerson, Oliver Ford Davies, in Jonathan Kent's production of

Danies, in Johannan New Sproduction of Chaltho's Risk produced play. Atmetida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404) Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7 30pm, mats Sat, 3pm. Until April 5, §

BIRMINGHAM, Birmingham Royal Ballet trunches the Emmingham Hippodrome's spring season with performances of The Steeping Beauty, tonight Sat, Feb 28 and March 1 The company's repertoire includes a double bill of Achton's The Dream and Song of the Ferth with chrosocombu by Kerneth

the Earth, with characgraphy by Kenneth MacMillan, from Feb 25-27 Hippodrome, Hurst Street (0121-622 7486) Mon-Sat, 7 30pm; mats Thurs (Feb 20), 2 30pm, Sat (Feb 22, Mar 1), 2 30pm. Until March 1.

IVANOV: Ratch Fiermes heads a

ELSEWHERE

III House tuli, returns only III Some seats available ☐ Seats at all prices

for comedian Sid Caesar back in the 1950s, Gene Wilder plays Sid Causen's, Shattesbury Avenue, W1 [0171-494 5040] Mon-Sat, 8pm; mais Wed, 2,30pm, Sat, 4pm.

☐ LUV: Revival of Murray Schisgal's long-running 1960s romantic correctly love troubles, life-s-awful troubles but a happy ending. Nei Marcus directs. Jermyn Street. (50 Jermyn Street, SW1 (0171-287 2875), Mon-Sat, 8pm,

OST NICHOLAS: Brian Cox plays a smug freatre critic who falls for a young actress, which probably doesn't prove a good move One-man play writen and directed by Conor McPherson, author of last year's well-received three-monologue play. This firms Time Review or usa year s wai-received my monologue play. This Lime Tree Bower Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (1918): 743 3288). Previews longth and tomorrow, 39m. Opens Feb 21, 7pm Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until Merch 22.

A STREETCAR NAMED DESTRE Jessica Lange, Toby Stephens, Imager Stubbs in adroit production by Peter

◆ FLY AWAY HOME (U). Endearing tale of orphaned Canada geese, with

dinavan Prints (0171-436 1555).
Cattle: John Bratty (0171-435 6960)
Gaillery K. Marle Grits (0171-734 4849)
Goethe-Institut: Racul Hausmann:
Photographic Works 1927-1937 (0171-411 3400). Hayward: Howard
Hodgith: Paintings: Beyond Reason, Art
and Psychosa: Works from the
Prinzhom Collection (0171-728 3144).
Lisson: John McCracken (0171-724
2739). National: Young
Gensborough (0171-747 2885).
Royal Academory: Braque: The Late

Hall Try to lorget the film. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800), Mon-Ser, 7.45pm;

ial SWAGGERS Revival of last year's award-winning trank, furnry and real picture of London's underworld by Mike Mahoney Set above a shop dealing in

SI WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?: Diana Rigg and David Suchet in Howard Davies's powerful Almelda production of Albee's searing play. Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003), Mon-Sat, 7 15pm, mai Sat,

LONG RUNNERS

☐ Blood Brothers: Procein: (0171-369 1733) . ■ By Jeeves: Lyn: (0171-494 5045) . ■ Cats New London (0171-405 0072) . ☐ The Complete Works of William Stratospeers (Abridged): 405 0072).

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged): Cherico (0171-389 1737).

Dress for Dinner Duchess (0171-494 5070).

Gresser Cambridge (0171-494 5080).

Well of Complete (0171-47 5400).

Else Wilderheer Palace (0171-434 0309).

Shakes Boulevard Adelphi (0171-344 0055).

The Woman in Blacks Fortune (0171-438 2238).

nats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

take designer clothes. BAC, Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (0171-223 2223), Opens tonight, 7.30pm, Then Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 5.30cm, Until March 9

2 15pm, Until March 22.

Tacket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

Anna Paqum and Jeff Danids. Director, Carroll Ballard Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) Odeons: Marble Arch (0181-315 4216) Series Cottage (0181-315 4220) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys (0171-358 98990) Virgins: Chelses (0171-352 5096) Trocadero (0171-434 4343)

absorbing Woman orane, with Mer Gibson, Hene Russo and Gary Sinise. ABC Tothenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) Clephem Picture House (0171-483 3229) Notting Hill Coronel (2) (0171-727 6705) Odeons: Kensington (0181-315-4214) Leicester Squere (0181-315-4215) Marbie Arch (0181-315-4216) Swie stantos Arch (1781-315 4276) Swiss Cottage (1881-315 4220) Screen/Balter Street (0171-935 2772) UCI Whiteleys (1990 888990) Virgins: Cheleae (1071-325 2996) Fulham Rouf (1071-370 2639) Watermans

◆ RANSOM (15): Intercretterally

(0181-568 1176) PRIDICULE (15): Witty and diverting costume piece set in Louis XVI's court, with Fanny Ardent and Jean Rochefort. Barbican (0171-538 8891) Chefsea (0171-531 3742) Claphum Picture House (0171-438 3323) Cuzzon West End (0171-759 1722) Gate Notting Hill (0171-727 4043) Ritary (0171-737 2121) Screen/Hill (0171-435 3369) ♦ WHITE MAN'S BURDEN (15):

Underdog John Travolta claims justice from his employee, Harry Belatonie Flawed presentation of an interee. Director, Desmond Nakano Mazzanine () (0181-315 4215)

make the headlines

No way to

thing. The employees of the unnamed broadsheet traditionally "centreleft" but now being shoved rightwards and downmarket by a multinational called Internews - evoked by Doug Lucie's play certainly enjoy

more exciting lives than me. When they are not sacking each other, they are snorting coke, having sex in front of their colleagues, or swapping hard porn. When I worked on the centre-left Guardian, nobody asked me to orgies in obits. Nor does my present arts editor let me nibble his LSD-soaked sugar-lump before he drops it into his tea.

Nor has Lucie written as trenchant a study of British

journalism as he may have hoped. His is a world in which an editor dreams of turning his Sunday paper into a "glossy magazine with the news chucked out, and an Australian chief executive bandies sentences like "you're talking nine pints of puke" with the reporter hoping to expose his sharp dealing. The Shallow End is far peppier and more fun than Lucie's recent Grace, which hammered born-again religion, or his awful Gaucho, but cannot say I recognised the The Shallow End Duke of York's

That may be because I am an overprotected theatre critic or, as some sadist enviously says, a person who "closes shows and puts luvvies out of work". Perhaps there really are feature writers like Julia Ford's Slater, whose idea of going for a job interview is toinspect her prospective editor's penis and provoke him to orgasm with her dirty talk, and maybe there are editors like Tony Doyle's Kirk, who finds the sight of beggars stimulating. At least they get the play — set, incidentally, during a champagne-flowing wedding do for the big boss's daughter - off to an exuber-

antiy cynical start. Cut to the room where a sleazy showbiz writer sounds out a football correspondent about starting a pop-and-fanzine section called Whoosh, while another hack endlessly copulates with a waitress.

Jane Asher appears as an estranged wife with severe points to make ("don't confuse the freedom of the press with the freedom of the neople" and Nigel Terry follows as an investigative Aussie convinced



Journalistic japes: Julia Ford as Slater, Tony Doyle as Kirk and Nigel Terry as Rees

that the power of Internews will bring about "the end of humankind as we understand it and, eventually, the end of the planet".

How? That's not so clear. It

is airing important issues; but his mix of caricature and earnest pontification is hardly friendly to serious debate, and his loathing of capitalism is such that he cannot anyway goes without saying that Lucie sustain debate for long with-

out going ape. Who, I wonder, is splashing about in the "shallow end"? Not only we

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THIS pocket-sized theatre, one deep breath away from Piccadilly Circus, is a perfect arena ny withering play first showed in London. back in 1963. Dick Emery then took the role of the frustrated husband: "I'm more in love today than on the day I married. The trouble is, my wife won't give me a divorce." Murray Schisgal's amusing

piece is no revue, but something of the frolicsome selfconsciousness of the genre spreads through the writing and into performance. All to the good, for this is an urban fable, as neatly crafted as a Broadway joke, with a thesis, antithesis and then a synthesis that takes its characters back to the beginning, but happier. Or at least not dead, for when we first see Harry.

woebegone, shambling, his trousers tied with cord, he is

Jermyn Street

about to clamber over the of a suspension bridge and fling himself into the Hudson. Milt (the husband) comes striding past, recognises him as his former golden-futured college pai, and eventually reveals that he has come to meet his wife on the bridge and ... he brings a kitchen knife from his pocket. Inevitably, after Milt has persuaded Harry to chat up his wife - for luv will cure all ills — Ellen reveals that she has come to meet Milt armed with an even

longer kitchen blade. The dialogue dances the story forward, Harry's doleful self-analysis countering Milt's beaming self-approval, and glides into a competitive game of deprived childhoods which the Monty Python team may

to write their Good Old Days skit: "Cun? We used to drink"

ag true to the chara ters, are given a crisp edge that slightly inflates their absurdity. I do not know if it is in the text or in Neil Marcus's sprightly direction that Milt. dusts his wife down before presenting her to his old pal. even producing blusher and brushes to finish the job. A neat visual joke, whoever thought of it. Three spirited performances: Clive Carter as the self-pitying Harry, happi-est with his head in a paper bag: Joyce Springer with her lips that allure and send up. the arts of allurement; and sweet-talking Andrew O'Connor, blinking like Bambi in his well-labelled suit and costly -"Smell that" - deodorant." JEREMY KINGSTON

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The London Sinfonietta devotes a weekend to new music, but Django **Bates disappoints** with his contribution THE



Philippe Herreweghe conducts a colourful account of Berlioz's L'Enfance du Christ



■ TOMORROW

John Travolta stars as an angel with a mission in Michael the week's big Hollywood release

Underpaid and over here

oming from a city that is new even by New World standards, the Houston Symphony is an old or chestra. It was founded in 1913, and its long history has been shaped by a distinguished line of conductors, including Friesay, Beecham, Stokowski, Barbirolli and Previn — giving it strong British connections which will not be lost on the orchestra when it makes its British debut at the Barbican on Saturday. But the band owes much of its current reputation to Christoph Eschenbach, who during his nine years in Houston has created a success story comparable to Slatkin in Saint Louis. The sound now is rich and well

upholstered, but with plenty of individuality that distinguishes it from many generalised American super-orchestras. Ten years ago the situation was very different when Eschenbach arrived in Texas it would have been hard for him not to have improved the orchestra. Morale was so low among the players that some even jokingly blamed their music director. Sergiu Comissiona, for the big mid-1980s bust when the oil market collapsed, leaving stretches of the city hoarded up. But just as the Houston economy diversified, Eschenbach encouraged the orchestra to reinvent itself and seek both higher and wider artistic goals. And the players love him

Among the United States' 20 full-time orchestras, the Houston MUSIC: John Allison on the

British debut of the hard-working

Houston Symphony

Symphony is one of the busiest. Its home is Jones Hall in brash but beautiful downtown Houston, though many of the band's 200-plus annual performances take it elsewhere, from the neighbouring opera house where it plays for six productions a year, to the community outreach programmes in schools throughout the city.

We'd like to be the heroes for the city, along with our basketball team," said one of the players and the orchestra is certainly the object of very tangible civic pride. It needs to be, with a budget of \$19 million this year, of which only 3 per cent will come from public

Can money buy a good orches-tra? Houston, the nouveau-riche capital of the world, ought to provide an answer, but the musicians laugh nervously at the question. Their next three-year contract is currently being negotiated, and they are hurt that when the orchestra is playing so well they have been approached for a cut in pay. This year has not been a good one for the boards and players of American orchestras -

several have been on strike, includ-ing the San Francisco Symphony, which downed instruments during its European tour - and the Houstoners resent being paid less than their colleagues in many other cities. The orchestra im-proved so quickly that pay didn't keep up, explained one musician. "A board member said to us, Well, we just didn't expect file orchestra to be this good. It's the level of music-making that keeps us here."

hat, then, attracted Eschenbach to the Houston Symphony? "When I came here first as a guest conductor, I saw it as a sleeping beauty, with forces to be awakened and developed. I was offered the job two years after leaving the Tonhalle Orchestra in Zurich, and I felt I needed my own orchestra again. But most of all, I was interested in being an American music director, having to take care of everything, the fundraising, the welfare of the players and, of course, the music. Turning the orchestra around took a lot of work, but I think it is now something very special."
The 66-year-old Eschenbach still

makes regular appearances in Europe, and from 1998 he will also be principal conductor of the NDR Symphony Orchestra in Ham-burg. But he regards the United States as home, and works with many of the major orchestras there as well as being music director of the Ravinia Festival, base of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra



Conductor Christoph Eschenbach has encouraged the Texan orchestra to reinvent itself and seek higher and wider artistic goals

during the summer. It is a very different musical world from the one he grew up in, emerging first as one of the leading German pianists of his generation and then as a conductor under such mentors

as Karajan and Szell. Although he has conducted the

premieres of many American works, Eschenbach's European roots have left a particular mark on the orchestra's repertory. Many of its recordings feature late Romantic works and the Second Viennese School - and it is boldly focusing on this music during its five-country European tour, with just one American score. Christopher Rouse's short, frantic Phaethon, programmed in some cities (but not London). Apart from some very Texan friendliness, the Houston Symphony will not be making any national statements. Eschen-

bach would rather "let audiences hear what we've achieved, what we can do together. We will not be trying to show that we're an American orchestra."

■ Eschenbach and the Houston Symphony are at the Barbican on Saturday (0171-638 8891)

Stale labours

OPERA: Handsome settings but a slow Scottish start



A sparkling double act: Lisa Milne as Adele with Ailsa Mooney as her sister, Ida

Porridge with cream

SO LONG as it is party time, Scottish Opera's new Fledermaus glitters away. Kenny Miller has devised a handsome setting at the Theatre Royal for Prince Orlofsky's champagne reception: a series of arches, covered in green creeper and bright lights, disappears into the distance. Giles Havergal, taking an operatic break from the Citizens' Theatre, wisely tacks Johann Strauss's flimsy Act III on to the end of the Orlofsky diversions. The drunken revellers stagger a starlit dawn totheugh Governor Frank's wards

prison Once there Frosch's rambling reminiscences have mercifully been cut. They can turn Fledermaus into a long haul. Strauss only wrote one big number for the last act and Havergal wisely wraps up proceedings fast.

But he needs to get more life

Die Fledermaus Glasgow

and jokes - into Act I. Stodgy conducting from Nich-olas Braithwaite, in an inauspicious debut with the company, did not help. The Scottish Opera Orchestra, with the strings especially poor, served up lumpy Low-lands porridge instead of Vi-ennese whipped cream. With the temperature in the pit so tepid the principals took time to establish themselves.

In David Pountney's Engsh version von Eisenstein is a builder, and not a very tasteful one to judge from the gross pink peonies covering the walls of his living room clever Miller again. Peter Evans makes him a pleasant, lightweight character who is never going to be a match for his wife. Similarly Richard

via the law. Janis Kelly took more time to breathe life into Rosalinde. The soprano was hard and scratchy to start, but she dazzled finally with the csardas, sung in Hungarian -or was it Pountney-speak? In any case surtitles flashed up in one the production's best jokes. Anne Howells made no attempt to turn Orlofsky into a 17-year-old princeling, contenting herself with an oldfashioned music-hall drag act. a Burlington Bertie from Minsk. After a cautious start

> champagne began to flow. JOHN HIGGINS | with its vividly remembered

she got going once the royal

Coxon's Alfred, despite dis-patching one tenor favourite

after another, is unlikely to

make top of the bill at the State

Opera. Even Frank (Andrew

Slater in diverting form) is

another blunderer as he

whisks off Alfred to his nick or

"aviary", where presumably

all the inmates are doing bird.

the Viennese bourgeoisie are a

bunch of failures, especially

the males of the species. They

may treat their women as

baubles but they are the ones

who are ultimately dangled on a string. Lisa Milne's Adele is

the first to make this clear, a

pert and plump parlour maid

as sure to get her own way in

the end as Figaro's Susanna.

She is an expert comedienne,

especially in her Glaswegian

Act II double act with sister

Ida (Ailsa Mooney). She snaps

out her "I want to be an

actress" aria with great

aplomb and, as she goes off

with Governor Frank at the

end, she is clearly another one

destined to reach the footlights

The Havergal thesis is that

The clique that clicks

of those grandly titled television debates, the London Sinfonietta's State of temperature of new compositional activity in Britain and delivered an encouraging certificate of good health. That new music should be flourishing at a time when our political masters seem intent on draining the lifeblood from our cultural institutions is a phenomenon that requires some explanation.

in his introductory essay in the programme, the composes Julian Anderson suggested one reason that was borne out during the weekend: despite the unsympathetic politicoeconomic climate, the human climate remains warm -- composers actually talk to each other. If the outside impression is sometimes of a selfperpetuating clique, there is also a genuine support net-work in place, as was evident in a valuable opening forum.

Several of the event's cosponsoring organisations the Society for the Promotion of New Music, the Sonic Arts Network and BBC Radio 3 among them - put their resources and expertise at the disposal of non-established composers. The SPNM, we learnt, calls for scores each year and examines every one of the 400-500 it receives. The Sonic Arts Network offers concert, education and information facilities to those interested in electro-acoustic and related forms of composition.

The buzzwords heard on all sides are "diversity" and "open door policy" at once, perhaps, an acknowledgement of Nineties plurality and of past exclusions. Much of this was reflected in the various projects throughout the weekend: composer surgeries led by Param Vir and Diana Burrell; a performance of Fraser Trainer's True to Life with the participation of three children's groups; and workshops organised by COMA (Contemporary Music-Making for Amateurs).

Altogether some 39 new or nearly new works were heard. In a London Sinfonietta concert on Saturday evening conducted by Paul Daniel, David Sawer's Tiroirs and Keith Johnson's Sabotage received their world premieres. The latter, with its deliberate disiunctions and crude effects. I enjoyed less than Tiroits, whose title refers to the interlocking episodes that cleverly. sometimes humorously, shift the gears of the moto perpetuo passages. Richard Causton's The Persistence of Memory.

State of the Nation Oueen Elizabeth Hall

dream-like experiences, impressed even more than on its first hearing two years ago. Philip Cashian's Chamber Concerto - its concertante element provided by cadenzas for oboe, tomtoms and violin proves a worthy companion piece for the Berg work of the same name, from its opening walking bass to its atmospherically still coda.

The weekend's big disap-pointment? The talented, mould-breaking Django Bates

brought his quartet Human Chain to join the Sinfonietta under Markus Stenz. His three pieces, Some More Upsuccessfully mixed "the brain of classical music with the groin of jazz", as he pithily puts it. But we'll never know. The amplification of his group completely swamped the sounds produced by the Sinfonietta's 14 musicians sitting behind. All one could hear was

a piccolo, percussion and a mass of noise. What a criminal

CONCERTS: Showcase for the moderns; disappointment in Birmingham; beautiful Berlioz

BARRY MILLINGTON

No 2 is shorter than Gerard McBurney's Desire, but it is no better The problem with the latest product of BCMG's Sound

n ensemble such as the

Birmingham Contem-

porary Music Group.

which exists primarily to

bring new music into the

from time to time. So it is just

bad luck that, having commis-

signed so many winners since

it was founded ten years ago, it

has failed twice in three weeks.

Peter-Paul Nash's Symphony

Investment Scheme, presented at the centre of another over-

long programme in the Adrian

A sublime period piece

waste of good musicians!

o one could dispute that Berlioz's L'En-I fance du Christ is a work of great beauty, full of sublime moments. David Cairns has recently argued for the importance of periodinstrument performance in the face of increasing homogeneity of tone among modern symphony orchestras, and there is no doubt in my mind that only through attempting to reconstruct something of Berlioz's sound world can we truly appreciate his originality. Thus the contribution of the Orchestre des Champs-Elysées, playing on instru-ments that Berlioz would have recognised, was crucial to the overall impression of this performance conducted

by Philippe Herreweghe. L'Enfance du Christ is cored for somewhat reduced forces with unlimited use of brass, and there is much telling writing for the lower strings and wind, particularly bassoon and viola. Here the strings achieved a mellow sound, warm and glowing, while the woodwinds were

La Chapelle Royale jections from the winds.

The strengths of character-Barbican

bassoons cut plangently through the texture, the clarinets added a much more clearly defined centre to the overall sound and the flutes shimmered in their remarkable duet with harp representing the entertainment pro-vided by the Ishmaelites during the Holy Family's exile in Egypt.

Herreweghe's orchestral team brought out well these

colours, intrinsic to Berlioz's storytelling and sense of drama. His choirs. La Chapelle Royale and the Ghent Collegi-um Vocale, made an equally important contribution, notably in their final, unaccompa med chorus in which they achieved that rare quality in music a sense of total stillness. Equally magical were the angelic greetings, well sustained by the female members of the choir, and, of course, that most familiar of Berlioz's choral pieces, The

Tickets £10 £13.50

£18.50 £25 £30

vocal writing. Véronique Gens was gently expressive as Mary, Olivier Lallouette her stalwart Joseph. and Frederic Caton a genial father of the Ishmaelite family, while Laurent Naouri's Herod erupted in an outpouring of anger and fear. Herreweghe did his best to bring out the beauties of the score, though I longed for a dash of the Norrington flair.

isation in the key roles were

well taken by the excellent

line up of mostly French solo-

ists. The English tenor Paul

Agnew was the only non-

French speaker, but he. too.

was convincing in his role as

Narrator, bringing his usual refinement and insight to

Berlioz's wonderfully flexible

Tess Knighton

Birmingham not have to offer new sounds.

BCMG/Kraemer

new techniques or even new material, but it must, surely, display some evidence of fresh thinking. Take Nicholas Maw's Ghost Dances - one of the more successful of the older pieces in the concert: it is quite conventional in harmony; but it is inspired by such an individual aural imagination, motivated by such captivating rhythms, coloured by such sensitive scoring that it sounds consistently and engagingly like nothing else.

Nash's Symphony No 2 is basically another conventional piece. It is also primitive in technique, heavily reliant on the elementary stock-in-trade of both instrumental and vocal sounds, texturally confused where the two of them mix. laborious in construction, insufferably crude in its culminating use of percussion. altogether bereft of any idea fresh enough to capture the initially willing if ultimately reluctant ear. Never having dreamt of the tropical island paradise for which the work is said by its composer to be a metaphor, maybe I don't have the imagination to meet it halfway. But I suspect that in spite of the advocacy of conductor Nicholas Kraemer and the participation of the City of Birmingham Youth Chorus in untering lines from Auden and Stevens — halfway wouldn't have been far enough.

GERALD LARNER



notable for the individuality Shepherds' Farewell, with of timbre they retained. The some particularly reedy inter-Saturday 22 February 7.30pm GREAT ORCHESTRAS ... Great Performers Houston Symphony Christoph Eschenbach conductor Mitsuko Uchida pieno London debut concert by one of America's major orchestras Beethoven Plano Concerto No 5 Emperor uckner Symphony No 4 Romantic _extraordinarity rich, well-blanded sound

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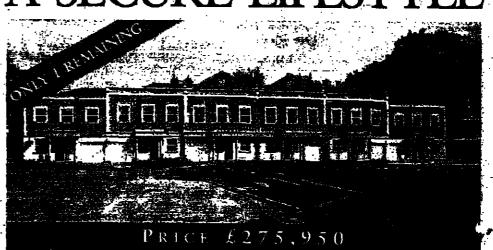
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Forget trendy London, lively Manchester or stylish Edinburgh.

Christian Dymond names the best place in Britain to live

eter Jordan and his family have had their suspicions confirmed. Having moved to Dumfries, they reckon that they live in the best place in Britain, and the latest quality if life league table shows they

E)

Compilers of the fourth ruality of Life study at Strathlyde University in Glasgow low expect househunters to home in on what are deemed the best places. The study, which took a year to collate, puts the Dumfriesshire town at the top of the list, followed by Livingston near Edinburgh, then by Kendal in Cumbria. Hull and Nottingham are said to offer the worst

quality of life. The 189 towns and cities were judged on 16 criteria,

'I wanted

the house

as soon as

I saw it.

The area is

so peaceful'

including access to healthcare, and their crime levels, cost of living, pollution, shopping facilities, education, scenery, transport, jobs and housing.

Dr Robert Rogerson, head of the Quality of Life group in the university's geography department. says: "I would ex-

pect people to look at the best places and their surrounding areas if they are thinking of going to that part of the country

Dumfries has a population of 35,000 and is an hour and a half by road from Glasgow and slightly longer by rail. Such a distance from a leading city is but a trifling inconvenience for Mr Jordan who moved to a one-pub, one-shop village near Dumfries from Cheshire two months ago.

A production manager at the town's ICI plant, Mr Jordan lives with his wife, Cheryl, and children, Jamie, Phillippa and Laurence, in a 200-year-old former coaching inn. The threestorey, five-bedroom, twobathroom detached house with cellar was a bed-andbreakfast establishment when they brought it for £140,000.

Mr Jordan, who leads a somewhat nomadic life, says: "I've yet to find a better place in Britain to live. The countryside is wonderful. I'm half an hour from the Solway coast and the commute to work is 20 minutes along country lanes, rather than 30 miles on the M56 and a crawl through Manchester.

"There also seems to be greater emphasis on standards in the education system here '

At the Solicitors' Propert Centre in Dumfries, which claims to handle about 90 per cent of homes for sale in **Dumfries** and Galloway.

Bernice Roickbie. the manager, is talking of a sales boom. The centre handles the properties of 28 solicitors firms in the area and usually has 1,300 to 1,400 on its books. The range includes a seven-bedroom Grade B listed mansion 20 miles north of the town

at Beattock for £350,000, a six-bedroom Victorian sandstone house in Dumfries for £150,000, and a one-bedroom flat in nearby Lockerbie for £12,500,

There are also a number of what are traditionally called Galloway cottages - whitewashed stone houses with black window surrounds — in the £45,000 to £70,000 range. The omission from the Strathclyde University survey of other southern Scottish towns such as Melrose, where there is a regional hospital. Jedburgh, Selkirk and Kelso surprised The Southern Reporter, a weekly paper in the central Borders, where these towns are.



barrister and chartered sur-

attending his specialist com-

lodge - set in an acre of

ground - cost about £150,000. The sandstone property with

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part of the world."

His three-bedroom castle

mercial chambers.

This is the life: the Jordan family at their home near Dumfries. Mr Jordan says: "I've yet to find a better place in Britain to live. The countryside is wonderful"

The newspaper phoned the university soon after publication of the survey but was told that the towns were too small to qualify. Nevertheless, the places have great charm, are all within 50 miles of Edinburgh (fourteenthbest place in the survey) and are surrounded by magnificent countryside. The whole of the Borders region has a population of less than

105,000. You can still get good value in an unspoilt area, says John Miliar at the estate agents John Sale, which has offices in Peebles, Galashiels and Kelso. For £200,000-plus, you will get a big family house with four or five bedrooms standing in half an acre of ground on an exceitent site.

These places are at a premium. But there has also been a marked increase in interest over the past six months in eight to ten-bedroom houses in about 30 acres of ground, possibly with a lodge or out-

buildings. Many of these properties are going to people from the South who have at last been able to sell their proper-

A large country house near Hawick with ten bedrooms, five bathrooms, a garden cot-tage, stable block and tennis courts in 12 acres of land with outline planning permission for homes on two sites is with John Sale at more than £300,000. For a third of the price, there is a four-bedroom. two-bathroom country cot-

tage, ten miles from Jedburgh. The rail link through the central Borders from Cartisle to Edinburgh was closed in 1969 and though there are long-term hopes of reopening 33 miles of it from Galashiels to Edinburgh, there is still the East Coast route through Berwick-upon-Tweed in England. Edinburgh is about 50 minutes one way and London under four hours the other.

● Copies of the Quality of Life report, El0 including p&p, are available from the Department of Geography, University of Strath-clyde, 50 Richmond Street, Glascigae, 50 Richmond Street, Glas-gow G1 IXN (0141-548 3037); Solicitors Property Centre, Dum-fries (01387 252684); John Sale, Galashiels, 01896 754842; Taits Berwick's proximity is a blessing for Andrew Noble, a WS, Kelso, 01573 224311

A land overrun vevor who, since he moved to the Borders in 1995, has chosen to take a 312-hour taxi and train trip to Manchester rather than use the car when

not only is there no peace for the wicked, there is precious little respite from traffic noise for anyone at all in England nowadays, Eve-Ann Prentice writes. It is probably no coincidence that the best places to live. according to the latest guide to the quality of life in various places in England, are those where there is the least traffic. The white splodges are those

areas overrun by vehicles. These maps have been com-piled by the Council for the Protection of Rural England and compare tranquil areas in the early 1960s with information available since the early 1990s. They show you now have to go a long way to get away from it all in England, unless you live in the far North or extreme West.

As the political debate intensilies over what to do about the menace of traffic congestion, the

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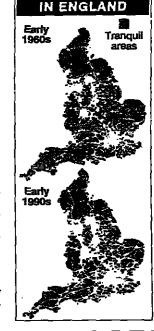
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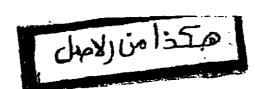
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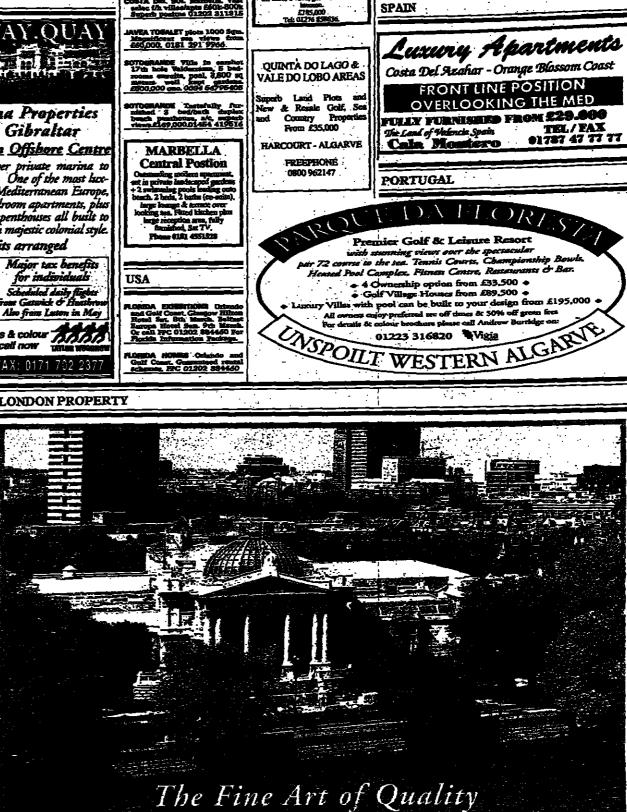
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RACING: LOCHSONG'S OWNER IN RUNNING FOR BHB POSITION

Smith persuaded to use skills in political arena

AND JULIAN MUSCAT

JEFF SMITH, the owner of Lochsong and widely respected in racing circles, has been approached to succeed Lord Swaythling when the latter steps down from the British Horseracing Board (BHB) later this year.

That Smith, chairman and chief executive of AIM, one of Europe's largest aircraft intenor manufacturers, has been persuaded to consider standing for the post is something of a coup. One of the few significant British owner-breeders left in racing, he has resisted previous efforts to recruit him to the decision-making process. He holds trenchant views on the way British racing is

PICHARD EVANS

Nap: BUCKLAND LAD (3.10 Folkestone) Next best: Theme Arena (2.10 Folkestone)

run but has always preferred to express them privately. Lord Swaythling, an industry representative on the BHB, completes his four-year term in June. Smith is one of eight prospective replacements under assessment by the industry committee. Although reluctant to discuss his candidature in advance of a committee vote, Smith yesterday outlined why he had decided to enter the political fray.

"I think the November Budget [which failed to enhance racing's beleaguered finances] provided the catalyst for a number of things," Smith said. "It changed a lot of people's thinking. As a long-suffering individual, the time has come to say enough is

"I can no longer sit back and watch. Something has got to be done. It is no longer an excuse to say it is not my



Smith, left, with Lochsong, has been approached to join the British Horseracing Board

problem. We have all got to do what we can."

Initially approached by Ian Balding, a trainer representative on the industry committee, Smith is understood to be the favoured candidate of Matthew McCloy, the committee's chairman. McCloy and Balding are on the fiveman selection panel which, a week tomorrow, is to compile a shortlist from which the industry committee membership will elect Lord Swaythling's successor in April.

Among other potential nominees, Rhydian Morgan-Jones, formerly chairman of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, will attract support but he and McCloy are at loggerheads. So much so that friends of McCloy suggest he might resign his seat on the

BHB if Morgan-Jones carries

In many ways it constricts the BHB's development that Smith and Morgan-Jones cannot both ioin the board; they are men whose intelligence and commitment are beyond reproach. Lord Zetland and Peter Jones are also due to stand down in June but their successors will come from the ranks of the Jockey Club and Racehorse Owners' Association respectively.

Smith's endorsement for the post would be widely welcomed. He has owned Littleton Stud, in Hampshire, and raced horses for more than 20 years. He would bring a much-needed balance to the BHB board. In addition to his experience in commercial bloodstock. Smith can also

AIM recently announced spectacular results that sent the company's share price soaring.

Elsewhere on the racing front, an international race day, with Dubai Duty Free as one of the main sponsors, is to open a three-day festival at Newbury on September 18. The card features a Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe trial and two other listed races, together with a pair of valuable handicans

"We believe the timing is perfect," Richard Pridham. the clerk of the course, said yesterday. "The Doubleprint Arc Trial, over 11 furlongs, is 17 days before the Longchamp event. Each of the three listed races carries £50,000 in added

Market Rasen Going: good igood to soil in straighti

2.00 (2m 1f 110yd frole) 1, MY CHEEKY MAN (R Johnson, 15-2); 2, White Hand (J Oscorre, 8-5 tay; 3, Morpheus (A Maguire, 1-17), ALSO PAN-9-2 Coble Cheef Strij, 17-2 Mangliano (pu), 10 Biby Bushwacker (Stri, 11 Country Lower (Hr.), 14 Side Ch.out, 16 Nesse Star, 50 First Cold, Forme Gunner

going: Standard

WORLESSON

2.00 GROUSE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN

STAKES (£2,804: 71) (11 numers)

SWEEPSTAKES (£2,580: 7f) (8)

3.00 SHIPE HANDICAP

(3-Y-0: £3,388: 1m 11 79yd) (7)

FOOTBALL

Avsenal v Man Ltd (8.0)
Aston Villa v Coventry (7.45)
Derby v Sheff Wed (7.45)
Liverpool v Leeds (7.45)

Stockport v Middlesbrough (8 0)

Kick-off 7 30 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership

Nationwide Leegue

OPR v Reading (7.45)

First division

Coca-Cola Cuo

Semi-linat, first leg

2.00 Sharpo Wassi. 2.30 DUKE VALENTINO (nap). 3.00 Brockure Line. 3.30 Prince Danzig: 4.00 Zorba. 4.30 Antonias Melody.

| PARCES (22,004.77) (11 INSTRUCT)
| PARCES (22,004.77) (11 INSTRUCT)
| PARCES (32,004.77) (11 INSTRUCT)
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| PARCES (37,004.77) (17 INSTRUCT)
| PARCES (37,004

3-1 Warp Druce 7-2 Stempo Wessi, 4-1 Spins Descr. 6-1 With's That Man, 8-Harry's Treat, 10-1 Heatingard's Physic, 12-1 Chesistal Silver, 14-7 Others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Followstone: 2 10 Darry Gale, Warring Real 3 10 Red Bean. Webverhampton: 3 00 Aspecto Led. 4:00 Contravers

2.30 PARTRIDGE CLADNING GUARANTEED

DRAW NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.30 22m 4f ct). 1, ALJADEER (N Willer-son, 7-1); Z. Rustic Abr (P Carberry, 6-1); 3, Netherby Seld (B Supple, 4-1); ALSO (RAN; Z tas Cally; Harg, 2 Detricine (pd., 14 Jacop's Wile (atr), 20 Fanny Gian (Sh), 25 Delicos (Brit), 33 The Priving Footman (pd.); 35 sai: 17f. hd, 6f. St. 10f. M W Easterby at Shartif Huston, Total: 27-50; 51:20, 25:50 S18:00 Trics sts 27:50 The: 515:20. CSF: 245:80. Trics sts 27:79 11.

3.30 WOODCOCK HANDICAP

(7) -301 SUPER HIGH 9 (B.C.S) P Housing 5-10-1 (Sec) F Norton 82 (2) 00-3 BARDON HILL BDY 21 (C.F.S) B Harbory 5-10-1 J Sack 87 (5) 41-5 PRIMES DANZES 35 (CD.F.S) D Marroy Scale 5-9-12 (Region 9) -102 SECOND COLCURS 21 (C.F.F.S) M Poe 7-9-10 K (Ration 9) 1102 CHAM CASTLE 9 (C.D.B.F.S) P Norton 99 S Domine 95 (9) -542 MISTRAS STAR 21 (CD.F.S) O Morray South 4-8-13 D Harrison 87

7 (4) 231- LENDING SPRIT 141 (D.F.R.S) C Well 5-8-12 D Holland 29 8 (3) -8-3 DANCING CAVALETS 9 (3) R Hollands at 4-5 F Lynch (3) 9 (3) R-6-3 DANCING CAVALETS 9 (3) R Hollands at 4-5 F Lynch (3) 9 (4) R-6-4 ORELOS 40 (7) Miss 5 Wildow 6-8-3 — Apartic Davyor (3) 97 4-1 Reation Hill Boy, 9-2 Super High, 5-1 Charm Castle, 11-2 Prince Davog, 6-1 Leading Spirit, Missia 5 Sar, 6-1 Second Colours, 12-1 others.

4.00 pheasant seiling guaranteed

SWEEPSTAKES (3-Y-0: 1m 100yd) (6)

4.30 JAY HANDICAP (£3,469; 51) (13)

1 (7) 0-02 BROADSTARS REAUTY 23 (0.D.F.E.S) D Show 7-10-0

2.30 27tt 4f chj. 1, ALJADEER (N Willenson, 7-1); 2, Rustic Ahr (P Carbony, 6-1); 3, Metherby Seld (B Supple, 4-1); ALSO RAN: 2, tex Catily Hang, 2 Desircaire (pd. 14 Jacob)s Wills (Bh), 20 Fennsy Glen (Sh), 25 Desircaire (pd. 14 Jacob)s Wills (Bh), 20 Fennsy Glen (Sh), 25 Desircaire (pd. 14 Jacob)s Wills (Bh), 20 Fennsy Glen (Sh), 25 Since (Bh), 33 The Flying Footman (bu), 25 Since (Bh), 21 Jacob, 22 Hustoel Loch (A Since (Bh), 11 High Penthose, 12 Moreoval, 12 Mor (W. Worthington, 4-1): 2. Tip it in (N. Homodis, 4-1): 3. Our Kris (J. R. Kassanaph, 12-1): ALSO RANE 5-2 faw Summerhill 12-1): ALSO RANE 5-2 faw Summerhill 4.00 (2m 51 110yd Inde), 1, BOSTON MAN Special (Sith), 3 Robert's Toy (8th), 77 apactri (P. Cariberry, 16-1): 2, Hencook (W. Manston, 19-1): 2, Hencook (

50-1); 3, Galen (R. Ourwoody, 13-2); 4. Wessi Street (A.S. Smith, S-1); ALSO RANK 11-4 fav Mayb Mayb (f); 8 (sadari (8th), Mrs. Robinson, 9. Gymorak Tiger (xd), 10 Sassaver, 14 Grand Cru, 16 Exempler, Major Yassi, 20 Alastean Heir (5th), Groce Card, Passad Pawn, Shoods, 33 Final Beat, 50 Just Supposen, 66 Bill And Win, 19 ran, 1, 271, 44, 2, Mr. R Woodhouse at York, Toler, 225,50; 53.00, 592.40, 52.00, 52.60 DF: 51,477.30 (part won, Pool of \$1,040.30 carried forward to 3.40 Follessions boday). Tro: not won (pool of £1,213.33 carried toward to 3.40 Folkestone 3.40 today). CSF: £639.97, Tricast: £5,176.91.

CSF: 2639.97, Tricast: 25,176.91.
4.30 (3m fl ch) 1, RANDOM HARVEST (R Durwoody, 11-10 kw); 2, Sideothill (P Ferdon, 9-1); 3, Whatsabob (N Williamson, 2-1); 4.30 RAN: 10 Claverhouse (pul, 11 Kings Sermon (fl, 20 High-beath (4th), 50 hm in Clover (pul), Pandors's Pitce (pul, 8 ran. NR: Deatha, Mair Feak, 23); 28, dist. Mrs. M Reveley, at Salburn. Tota: 52.00; 51.0, 51.70, 51.80. DF; 510.70, Tric: 57.20, CSF-511.08.

\$11.08.

5.00 (Im 5t 110yd flat) 1, AUTUMIN LORD (B Gristan, 6-4 kan); 2, Guidio (N Williamson, 5-1); 3, Alisande (Mr C Borner, 8-1); ALSO RAN: 11-2 Pause For Thought, 11 Williamson, 12 Fruitation (Bin), Macy (4th), 16 Landler, Prome The Pipaline, 20 Sir Boston, 33 Frugal, Red Classis, States Lane, Stan's Pinde, The Country Don, 40 Brother Harry (5th), Careriow, My Wartage, 50 Farm 18th; 19 ran, NR- Squedicile, Nk. 111, 14, 18, 394, P Beaumon's Brandsby, Tota: E2-20; C1-20; E2-80, 12-50, DF: 95-40 Tho: £13.80

Jackpot: not won (pool of £15,733.68 carried forward to Folkestone today). Piecepoit \$153,90. Quadpot: £29,10.

(5) 0221 SAML/EDROUGH BOY 12 (B.G) T Barron 9-3 D Harrison 91 (1) 0-55 CONTRANCHE 7 (B.C.F.R) J Borry 8-12. T F Durcan (5) 80 (3) 0- E-E-ER 182 M Channon 8-12. P F Matribry (5) 400- RISCATTO 172 W Matr 8-12. A Chart 79 (2) 635 TACARE 11 (6) P Evers 8-12. Authory Bond (7) 77 (4) 4-24 ZORRA 14 G Thornton 8-12. K Fallon 8-14 (6) 4-24 ZORRA 14 G Thornton 8-12. Lingfield Park

Going: standard ough Boy. 5-2 Zorba, 7-2 Companyer, 6-1 Teorre, 8-1 Eyes, 16-1 2.20 (1m 2) 1. Spencer's Revenge (G Bardwell, 6-1): 2. Steller Line (13-2): 3. Laink (14-1). Awesome Poser 2-1 fax. 11 ran. (34): P.P. Buller. Tote: 28.00; 23.00; 23.80, 55.80 DF: 228.20 This not won pool of \$83.82 carried towered to 3.40 Folkestone today). CSF: \$42.28. 2.50 (tim 2l) 1, Punkeh (R Studholme, 10-1); 2, Secret Aly (10-1); 3, Quiet Arch (7-2) Sweet Supposits 5-2 law, 10 ran. 34, ld. G McCount. Tota: £15.80; £3.30, £3.80; £2.20. DF: £02.10 Trio: £58.20. CSF£108.25. Tricast £396.90.

4.20 (1m) 1, Invocation (Candy Moris, 14-1); 2, Enten (100-30 tar); 3, Robellion (5-1), 11 ran. 9), hd. G. L. Moora, Totre 512 (5); 55.00, 12.50, 53.90, DF: 514.30 Trat: 640.00, CSP: 638 35, Treaser, 5259.25

4.50 (19 4) 1, Scolama (M Wigham, 7-1); 2, Fabulous Mino (13-2); 3, in The Money 9-2 (a); 1, Capma (6-1) 16 an. 29; 14; 14; A Flower, Tota: C8 40; 22 00, 12 30, 51 90, 52 29; DF, 50-10. Tho: 534 20, CSF: 533,48 Innest: 5221 67.

Placepot: £120,40. Quadpot: £6,20.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premie

ganto's Britished Ht v Derestor, Live Town v Briefley Hill T; Stafford T v Walsell Wood.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division; Citheroe v Rossendale; Perath v Blackpool Rovers; SI Helens v Meine Road.

A VII (T. C. ID: South proved: Not.

FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round: Not-

tingham Forest v Blackburn Rovers

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Southern

2 (10) 050- SING WITH THE BAND 103 (D.F.S) B McMahon 5-9-13
3 (5) 2-94 RAMSEY HOPE 28 (V.CD.F.S) C Painters 4-9-10 K Petton
4 (6) 9-11 ANTONIAS MELODY 2 (6.5) S Bowrung 4-9-8 (7a)
5 (6) 2-40 CHADWELL HALL 28 (B.CD.F.S.S) S Roundon F.O.T 3.20 (1m) 1, Amico (Dean McKeown, 7-2). 2, Isis Ficoda (11-10 fev); 3. Talisman (10-1). 5 ran. 31, 2%1. C Thomson Toc 24.50; 22.30, 21.10. DF-23.30. CSF: £7.45 (12) 1883- THE HAPPY FOX 62 (B.O.F.G) B Modelson 5-8-7 3.50 (6) 1, V i P Cherie (S Sanders. 10-11 lay); 2, Rorgotten Times (S-2); 3, Windbom (20-1), 5 ran. 3l, nk. J Jenkins. Tote: £1.70; £1.00, £2.60. DF: £2.60. CSF: £3.39,

5 (12) 083- THE HAPPY FDX 62 (6.0,F.6) 8 Medichous 5-8-7 (Newton 95 (7) 93-225 CHEMICAST 22 (8.0,F.6) 1 Eyes 4-9-7 (1) Powrs (3) 95 (7) 9-65 DAMOE R.VERI 15 (0,F.6) 10 Antiquent 4-9-5 (1) 10 Powrs (3) 92 (2) -023 NAPIER START 28 (V,CD,5) Mes N Measuring 4-9-1 (1) 13 0-24 MADRIMA 22 (5) 13 Bony 4-9-1 (1) Preserve (5) 93 (1) (4) 3512 93 LA HIGH 14 (CD,6) Na Measuring 4-9-1 (1) Severney (6) 92 (7) 5-34- MIGHT HAPPARDY 12 Micro William 4-8-9 S William 60 93 (1) (1) 13 (1 **COURSE SPECIALISTS**

TRANSERS: Mrs M Reveley, 12 wigners from 50 moners, 24.0%; M Johnston, 44 from 190, 23.2%; W Happies, 5 from 31, 19.4%; P Resistan, 30 from 157, 19.1%; H Collegations, 4 from 21, 19.0%; J Bottomby, 4 from 21, 19.0%. JOCKEYS: Anthony Bond, 5 whereas from 14 rides, 35.7%, N Rhomer, 5 km 25, 192%; Martin Dayte, 3 from 17, 17 5%; D Holland, 11 from 74, 14.9%; R Lappin, 7 from 47, 14.9%, J Yale, 9 from 71, 12.7%.

THE PERSON OF TH

OCFORD QUELL heat Playing Trutini 81 in 13-tunner feedleap chase here (2m 51; good to soll) on perudismate start, with RETAIL RUMMER (6th better off multion in 15 about 551 lith of 12 to Whitepers Delegal in handscap chase at Kemplon (2m, good to soll) on perudismate start. DREWITTS DANCER about 441 7th of 16 to Mr Googlety in hunter chase RED BEAN best recent ellent about 71 4th of 10 to Zeredor in baussicap chase at Whodour (2m. 110yd, good is 50ff).

RETAIR, REMINIER SI 2nd of B to Chilippeer in bouter chase here (2m. 51, good) on persuburate start. FENWICK 2144 4th of 14 to 1 hast the Life in handicap chase at Hereford (2m, good to 5x8) with PUSTIC SENT (3tb better off) pulled up. BUCKLAND LAD 131 3nd of 9 to Coolinea Hero or nowice chase at Phurophon (2m, good to 5x8).

3.10 GAY RECORD CHALLENGE TROPHY

(Handicap chase: £2,613; 2m) (7 nunners)

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent This was an embarrassing experience for East-West (me and Brian Senior) in the 1996-97 Premier League.

FOLKESTONE

THUNDERER

SETTONIC: 5-2 Theren Asexu, 6-1 Dockhards Cooner, 7-1 Fich Back, Renievas Way, 8-1 Canny Gale, Warning Red, 12-1 Olives

1996: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING

FORM FOCUS

233. 201 FI 170y(0) (15 AUTORES)

201 PIPETS ROCK 30 (Ms. 6 Backing) 5 Backing 6-11-12 R Greene
202320 RAME SPREAD 34 (BF) (M. Jones M. Pipe 7-11-12 A P. MacDoy 9
TEORROMA 1757 (B. Winner 4 Jerken 7-11-6 AR M. Gagel
20253 ROSSEEN RENGE 7 (BF) (F. Sectic C. Winchin 6-11-6 Mr. M. Gagel
20253 ROSSEEN RENGE 7 (BF) (F. Sectic C. Winchin 6-11-6 Mr. M. Gagel
20253 ROSSEEN RENGE 7 (BF) (F. Sectic C. Winchin 6-11-6 Mr. M. Cangel
20253 ROSSEEN RENGE 7 (BF) (F. Sectic C. Winchin 6-11-6 Mr. M. MacDores
13-02 SPROK MISSIN 75 (M.S. 10 Generally 10 Generally 5-11-3 Septem Ministel (5)
00000 BARA SAM 16 (J. Coles) P. Earles 6-11-2 D Schemmintel (5)
00000 BARA SAM 16 (J. Coles) P. Earles 6-11-2 D Schemmintel (5)
0000 ST MELLION LEISLINE 29 (S. Mellon Etable) H Pipe 5-11-2 G Supple
00 DOLLIMER 13 Rosz Bacrog (5 Dayle 5-17-0 J Lawrence
6PORTIO SCORPHON BAY 16 (Ms. A Brazench C. Desten Caus 9-11-3 J Magne (8)
4-P. VANCOLIMER LAO 30 (Ms. A Sect) W 6 M Torce 8-11-0 Mr. Minimagion (7)
0406 WSE Y STAME 65 (Cause Res) M Lapart 6-10-11 Mr. Labar (7)
LIGHS EWAR BOLD 7 (A Richarch) K Caractylan-Pown 4-10-9 B Feston 8
12-1 Backing (F. MacDore) Z (G. Hestaltan) C. Popitary 4-10-7 G. Sommer (2-1) Park

SETTEME: 3-1 Rosinen Bridge, 5-1 Rare Spinari, 7-1 Sping Mustin, 6-1 Teoretta, 10-1 Scorpton Bay, 12-1 Paper's Book, 14-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

RARE SPREAD 41 2nd of 1.4 to Aires Soit 1 in handlings burdle over course and distance (good to soit) with ROSSIESH SRIDGE. 43 3nd 13 3s to Total Joy in handlings burdle at Lingdeld (2m 3f 110yd, beavy) with SRIAR BOLD 295 6h.

DOUBLE RROUBLE 157 7th of 18 to Regal Gent in National Hunt Rat cace at Wortestor (2m, good to Sait Wisser) with RARE SPREAD (5th worse oil) ran out 71 (2m 31, good to fam).

BETTERES: 5-2 Oxford Omid, 7-2 Retail Roomer, 5-1 Buckland Lad. Fermick, 5-1 Red Bean. 10-1 Restu: Genl. 12-1 Density Denser

FORM FOCUS

harabose hossile at Langheid (2m. good to stall) on

handcay house at Impfield (2m, good to soll) on penatronet start.

DISSIR-VE based Dissam neck in 16-mans selfing handcan hundle at Lamber (2m 11, good) NENTAVRIUS WAY has Summer Villa 131 in 15-mount condensate powers selling bandcan handle at Promption (2m 11, good to soft). 1474-884 should 2614 5st of 14 fo Jacly Magnam se classing hundle at Wincarton (2m, good to soft). 1474-884 should 2614 5st of 14 fo Jacly Magnam se classing hundle at Wincarton (2m, good to soft). 2415-884.

Selection: THEME ARENA

2.10 Theme Arena 2.40 Sprig Muslin 3.10 Retail Runner

210 KENTAYRUS WAY.

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

Carl Evans: 4.10 Tritast Lad.

(£1,778: 2m 1l 110yd) (12 numers)

icon). MUSEUM 2141 Zool of 9 to Shapberts Resi to 1

(£2,233: 2m & 110yd) (16 runners)

2.40 LYMPHE NOVICES CLAUMING HURDLE

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating

GOING: SOFT (CHASE COURSE); HEAVY (HURDLES)

2.10 DAVID BEINGE HOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

3.40 Script

4 10 Tritast Lad 4,40 Milknount Lad

Dealer West North-South game + K J 10 B **₽**₭J873 N. eAQ4 ¥Q 189752 W TAB4 +974 ♦A653 . . . 5 #A 1062 **◆** X 10 9 5 **▼**KJ63 • Q 2 ÷Q95

45 All Pess

West's opening was a Weak Two. South (Graham Horsley, of diamonds.

for the Macnair team) took some time to bid Four Spades, so when it came back to me I made a dubious double. I hoped that the king of spades was on my right, and that a heart would stand up. Neither of those things

sation my partner had a singleton club. When he led the four declarer played the jack from dummy. I won with the ace, and the declarer played the nine from hand. Now I probably should have returned the ten, to tell my partner I had no interest in diamonds. However, that would have lost a club trick if my partner had started with Q 5 4. So I returned the six of clubs. Senior ruffed, and interpreting my six as being a vague interest in diamonds. returned the diamond three. I

think that was impractical --

came to pass, but in compen-

clearly I was likely to have a trump trick for my double, so he should have cashed the ace

All was not lost, however. Declarer played the eight of diamonds from dummy, and won my nine with the queen. He crossed to dummy with a heart ruff and led the seven of spades. See if you can work out what I should have done. Answer tomorrow. ☐ This year, for the first time.

both last-round Macallan Camrose matches, England v Wales and Scotland v Northern Ireland, are being played at the same venue, the Giffard Hotel in Worcester. It promises to be an exciting weekend and spectators are welcome. For further information ring John Williams on 01296-394414

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

MERACIOUS a. Commendable b. Unadulterated c. Marshy

COCKALORUM a. The dawn chorus b. An open range flock

هِ كذا من رالمهل

Eng. 2

By Philip Howard

a. Wind nymphs b. A death wail c. Magic ONYMOUS

> b. Name-dropping c. imposing Answers on page 46

a. Not anonymous

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (RF.F.G.S) (Mrs D Robinson) R Hall 17-0 _ Recessed number. So-liquire from (F — lett. P — patient up. U — usessied index, B — brought down. S — stopped up. R — refused. D — despendient) Horse's name. Day's since lact outling: F of Ital. (B — blankers, V — victor H — hand. G — good. S — solt, good to solt, beautiful translations. The limit hand. Expended. C — course without of — despended. C — course without of — despender of — despended. C — course and destance. Firmto Handicapper's rating

ing programs of the experimental programs of the programs of t

3.40 STANFORD SELLING HANDICAP HURBLE (£1,640; 2m 1(110vd) (15 numers)

Trians, but it it old fin immed									
4	01	211252/	VALIGNTHE 744 (BJ S) (M Pipe Racing) to Pipe 9-12-0	=					
4	32	02101-6	TELT TECH FLYER 65 (C.D.S) (I Jones 1 Jones 12-11-6 Mass E J Jones	ŦŶ.					
4	13	04-560F	LENNI JOHNE 9 (T Sepret) 7 Rechart 6-11-2	97					
4	04	ED/ED/43	DERISERY 9 (8.0.F.6.5) (Miss J. Sell) Sindoer 3-19-12	96					
4	05	630041	SCREPT 19 (F.St) (Electronic & Softman) J. Jerkins 6-10-12 J. Distorne	91					
4	06	54-15P0	KOLLING TIME 14 (F) (S Levis) D Brachell 6-10-10 D J Burchell	98					
4	97	5/10-500	ALDWICK COLONNADE 6 (F,6) (Meases Racing) M Uses 10-10-8 W (McCastand	_					
4	78	0768/66	DEPTRORD BELLE 9 (Heart Of the South) P. Curtis 7-10-6 D Morns	84					
	33	0/540	AL HAAL 13 (6) (J Joseph) J Joseph 8-10-4						
4	10	47700-00	GELTIC LELLEY 7 (B) (Nos a Taylor) J Flash Heyes 7-10-3 B Festion						
	11	/2106-0		98					
4	12	33P-R15	PRECIOUS WONDER 9 (D Butter) P Butter 6-10-1	95					
4	13	4000Q/D-D	SIDE BAR 245 (B.D.G.) (East & Partners) Miss & George 7-10-0 J R Karamagh	-					
4	14	22/D4D-0	OLIMPET 16 (F Gray) F Gray 8-10-0						
4	15	06F0-0P	PARISHAN 65 (Mass J Blackard) J Benneti 12-10-0 A Lucas (7)	-					

Long kandicap: Side Bar 9-13. Ghinper 9-7, Pansan 9-3 SETTING 7-2 Script. 5-1 Denotary 7-1 Previous Wonder, 15-2 Valuatine, 8-1 Deatherd Belle, 16-1 Tin Tec. Phys., 14-1 cities.

FORM FOCUS

LOUM LOCOS							
TECH PLYER best Letter Lity 64 or stands selling hardesp hardes at Neuton Ab- 20m 11, settly in perultament start. BLEWN ME 2014 68m of 11 to Ready Money Creek or business of the Medical Cim. peoul DERISBAY and 15 to Mentantics Way or conditionals as bardiscap hardle at Pleanphon (2m 11, pood 8) with PRECOUNS WOOD(PR C2m better on 5th and DEPTFORD BELLE 51 6th. SCRIPT	best Slightly Special 21 in 8-rumer setting hands can handle at Lingfield (2m. 10pd, 50h) em DERISBAY (3th hetje 40h) 84 dh. Et HAAL 311 44 of 8 to Kaylani on setting handlesp handle Phompton Com 11, pood to soill on pendiemat sant OLIMPET 144 7th of 15 to Jone King claiming counts handle at Fanlingii (2m. 21 110pt spood to farm). Selections: SCRIPT						

4.10 FLISHER FOODS MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE

Ama	ieus: 81,	,067· 2m 5t) (10 runners)	
581	3P23-	ASTOLUNO 333P (Lists 5 Coheron Nats 5 Martins 7-12-8 . R Webb-Bowen (7)	
502	P12-4	CENTRE STASE 7 (G.S.) IL BOWDEN) Mrs. S War 11-12-8 A Wart (7)	•
503	1379	DASSIBOARD LIGHT 290P (S) (Source Farms) Mr. C Coole 7-12-8 Simon Andrews (3)	
504	44/11/	EREYBURY LAME 1033P (6.5) (D SIN) Mrs D 5/N 9-12-8 P BNG (7)	
505	5P/324-	GIPSY KING 252 Alls N thattain G Coppet 7-12-0	
506	6/	KINES HIGH 1862F (Mrs. N. Wingstein) N. Wingstein 10-12-8 C. Ward (7)	
507	213 Ú	SMADS OF GOLD 705 (5) IS Bedneson C Normo 9-12-6 L Law (?)	
5D8	22-2	TRUFAST LAD 9 (F.G.S) (M. Roberts) M. Roberts 12-12-8 P. Hackedg (S) 8	
509	G/00000-F	ELL GEF 7 (P Towardey, Mr. P Towardey 7-12-3 Miss C Towardey (?)	

SETTING: 7-4 Tritors Lad, 100-20 Greytony Lane 11-2 Gyery King B-1 Joston Don, Sands Cl Gold, 10-1 El Geo 12-1 clients. **FORM FOCUS** ASTOLUND 11 2nd of 9 to Always, Great in posit-to-point at Latifull (3m, good) on petulibriate start. SPESPERRY LANE best Sengrani Sonace 11 in TREAST LAD 241 3nd of 5 to Loyal Note in hunter point-to-point at Culterham (3m, good), Amil 94 GYPSY KING 51 2nd of 9 to Sheet Jest in hunter Selection. TREAST LAD

4.40 FOLKESTONE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,364° 2m 6f 110yd) (8 runners)

Long Repolicage: Roger s Par 9-9 (Jajacher 9-3

BETTING: 2-1 Monies Schein. 7-2 Augus Sell II, 4-1 August Theilib, 9-2 Molleton, 7-1 Millimouni, B-1 Celus Lam 16-1 others. FORM FOCUS

ANOMICS SCHAMM 31-1 2nd of 10 to Carcus Colours in navice hundle have (2m 41 110yd, glood to farm) on pensulanciae start, April 95. AMESI SOTT is seat Bare Sparad 4 in 14-nime transface hundle over course and distance (good to soft) on pensulanciae stare.
MRLLMOUNT 14%1 4th of 14 to Danks Cavales in traden fundle over course and distance (good to

2011. MRALINTOR 31 2nd of 16 to Jone King in clamming movice handle at Footbaell (2m 2d 110pd., poof is famil. AUGUST TWELFIH 31x1 2nd of 5 to Nipper Reed in handcap fronte at Linguistic Cris 110pd. beany). LALADIAL 91 2nd of 8 to Mayo-Mayo in tendicap

COURSE SPECIALISTS trainers Rms 38 14 68 54 21 23.7 21.4 16.2 15.6 14.3

Fixtures fall to waterlogging

THE meeting at Hexham today has been abandoned because of a waterlogged course. Stewards intended to inspect this morning but after heavy rain yesterday decided to call off the fixture during the afternoon. Yesterday's meeting at Carlisle ed because of waterlogging.

31 bxc6

32 Oxd6

33 Qd5+

35 Re2 36 K12

Rd3

38 Red2

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE

CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kasparov's record By capturing first prize in the super tournaments at both Las Palmas and Linares, Garry Kasparov has cataputed his likely

rating in the next published list to the astonishing level of 2,620. This will be a world record. No other player in the history of chess has approached the 2,800 level, let alone surpassed it.

In his final spurt at Linares, Kasparov had to win every game in order to overtake Vladimir Kramnik, his main rival. In the following game. Kasparov imagi-natively assaults White's king's position with the black pawns.

g5 Bg7 h5

Bxg/ Bd7

0-0

Oa5

Ca3

axb5

White Alexei Shirov Black: Garry Kasparov Linares, February 1997

Nt3

Nc3

Bg5

Bh4

3 d4

€ Be3

9 Bg3 10 Be2

11 Bxg4 12 13

15 Ncs2

Qd3

21 Rad1

22 c4

23 Nc3

24 Rte1

27 b5

28 Bx14

29 cxb5

16 b3

Sicilian Defence

abcdeig After 39 Rxe3 Rxe3 40 Rxe3 Bg5+ Black will emerge with a winning

Diagram of final position

Oxe6 Oxe4

%E%e%

Adams shines

Britain's Michael Adams can also be well satisfied with his performance at Linares. He lost just one game, to Kasparov himself and shared third prize with Topalov, ahead of Polgar, Anand, Ivanchuk and Shirov. Although not a tour-nament victory, taking third prize in such exalted company must be accounted one of Adams' career

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Baisford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at 66.99 plus postage and packing).

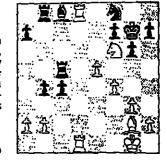
□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Gutman - Kalinchev, Boblingen 1997. The powerfully placed white rooks give him a very active position, but he must exploit it quickly before the black queenside pawns become a serious threat. How did White continue?

Solution on page 46





Under-21 metch Italism League v Football League (al Luigi Farraris Stadium, Genos, 3.0) Vaudnail Conterence Spakking Challenge Cup Quarter-linel replay Stalybridge v Morecambe (7.45) ...

Bell's Scottish League Premier division Rangers v Dundee Utd (7.45) Second division Livingston v Brechin Strangaer v Hamilton

ICAS LEAGUE: Premier division: Harrow v Bishop's Stortlord. First division: Cheshem v Tooting and Milicham. Third division: Flactored Heath v Harrow. division: Riacleael Heath v Harrow.
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Midland division: Paget R v Evesharrt, Reunds T v
Shepshed D: VS Rugby v Bedworth.
Southern division: Bashley v Havent;
Oentlord v Wirney.
UNBOND LEAGUE: First division:
Bradtard Pk Ane v Stockstridge PS.
League Cup: Fourth round: Beston v
Erriey.

44704: MISURANCE COMBINATION:

Ermay.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION:
Lesgue Cup: Sucrises v Oxford United
(2.0); Wimbledon v Bournemouth (Plough
Lane, 2.0); Millhad v Wattord
(2.0).

PONTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Bischpool v Notts County (7.0); Huddersfield v Sunderland (7.0); West Bromwich v Port Vele (at Helesowen Town FC, 7.0). Second division: Burnley v Hull (7.15); Rotherham v York (7.0); Snewsbury v Grinsby (7.0). Taird division: Darlington v Wigen (7.0); Donester v Walsali (7.0); Rochdale v Chester (7.0); Seminorpe v Bury (7.0). (7.0); Schminder Youny (7.4); GNERRT LEAGUE OF WALES: Casmarton v Fint Town (7.45); Casmar-then Town v Aberystwyth; Cemaes Bay v Corwy; Ton Pentre v Briton Party. WELSH CUP: Quarter-lines replay:

Deveronvele v Keith, Eight v Fort Willem, MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE Premier division: Buckingham Athletic v Bedferd; London Colney v Letchworth.

Latchworth.

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Worcester
Athelico v Kings Heath.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN
LEAGUE: First division: Crook v
Morpeth; Durham v Seeham Red Ster.
Whickheim v Guisborough: Writiby v
Easington. JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First di-vision; Christchurch v Portsmouth. SNOOKER

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Solument Counties Cup: Newhern v Redbridge (2.0). Finch Trophy: Beziey v Craydon (10.30), English Goodyear Under-16 Trophy: Norton, Cavetand v Cardinal Heerian, West Yorkshire (3.0); Bedminister Down, Gloucestershire v Churston Grantmar, Devon (3.0) RUGBY UNION CIS UNDER-21 COUNTY CHAMP-IONSHIP: Midlands final: Warweleshire v Notinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire (at Rugby, 7.30).

BASKETBALL: Burbvolser League: Bir-mangham v Manchester (8.0). mrighem v Manchester (8.0). ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Ayr Mourcestle (8.50). c. A self-important fellow **FOOTBALL**

Arsenal to examine champions' resolve

BY PETER BALL

captain, will miss the games against Arsenal and Chelsea

because of suspension, as will

ing from an operation. In their

absence, Ferguson may con-template playing Cole and

Solskiaer as an orthodox

strike force, or he may decide

to play only one, with

Butt returning to join Beckham and Keane in mid-

field, and Giggs and Poborsky playing wide. May and Philip Neville are also in the

Seaman, the Arsenal goal-

keeper, has failed to recover in

time from the knee ligament

injury that kept him out of England's World Cup qualify-

ing match against Italy last

week, but Adams, the captain,

has shown no reaction after

playing against Tottenham

Hotspur last Saturday, despite

a damaged ankle, and will

again lead the side against

Lukic will continue to

deputise for Seaman, and

Wenger, who is expected to

the Tottenham match and

showed that he is an impres-

sive goalkeeper. If he plays

like that again we can have no

Platt, the Arsenal midfield

player, has resumed training

after a hamstring injury and could return against Wimble-

The FA Cup quarter-final tie between the Nationwide

League second-division teams,

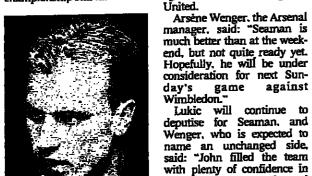
Chesterfield and Wrexham.

worries.

MANCHESTER United's FA Carling Premiership title credentials will be fully tested over the next four days when they make two trips to the capital. They face third-placed Arsenal at Highbury tonight, with Chelsea awaiting them on Saturday, but Alex Ferguson, the United manager, was keen to play down the significance of the matches.

"These two games are very, very important," he said, "but no more so than the next 11 after them. At this stage of the season, getting points in all the

games is the target."
Victory for Arsenal, and for Liverpool against Leeds United at Antield tonight, would see both sides leapfrog United at the top of the table. A couple of weeks ago Ferguson said that the ball was in Arsenal's court as the other main contenders for the championship still had to visit



Bergkamp: threat

Highbury. A victory by United tonight, however, would raise some questions about the London club's ability to go the

United and Arsenal have had some tight matches - and some virulent ones — over the years, and Ferguson expects another difficult match

"Arsenal have changed a bit," he said. "Tactically, they give Bergkamp a lot of freedom. He links well with Merson and they have more flexibility, are a bit more subtle than they were. But it's the same nucleus at the back that we've played against for ten years. They are very experienced, they've always been very competitive and it won't be any different this

Eric Cantona, the United

Stockport look up to guardian Angell

David Maddock on

a travelling player

calming the nerves

of cup inexperience

huffling around awkwardly, eyes wide barely concealed awe, the younger members of the Stockport County Coca-Cola Cup semifinal squad were clearly un-used to the strange ritual of a media open day in a swanky Cheshire hotel.

Mottram Hall is a country house that plays host to the rich and famous of the North West. Its marbled corridors and grandly ornate rooms are familiar to captains of industry and leading sportsmen. Germany stayed here during the European championship; Alex Ferguson and Eric Cantona are regular visitors

Stockport players are not. They have beaten three Premiership clubs on their way to a semi-final tie with Middlesbrough but the Nationwide League second division players are still unfamiliar with the big time. "It's all a mistake," their expressions said. "I shouldn't be here."

It is one thing, of course, upsetting big teams in the cup, quite another arriving as a fancied side in a semi-final. Stockport have performed heroically to get this far, but the impression lingers that they have wandered slightly out of their depth.

One man, though, was at ease with his surroundings at the open day, fielding the double edged questions of an eager media with relaxed amusement. Brett Angell, who returned earlier this season for his second spell at Stockport, is one of their few players who is at ease with the trappings of the top flight, even if he did not stay there

He had unhappy spells with Everton and Sunderland in the Premiership, but Angell, 28, believes that both clubs offered positive experiences. "I am relaxed now, happy with my life at Stockport," he explained. "Before I went to Everton I was so ambitious, so eager to move up, that I was anxious, I didn't enjoy the experience of

playing football. "Now I am will be played on Sunday. March 9, after police advice. Stockport I haven't lost ambi-Chesterfield's near neightion, but I can enjoy times like this far more. We are in a bours, Derby County, have a home match on the Saturday semi-final and it is a great - against either Southampton experience, but before I may in the Premiership, or Midhave let it pass me by. dlesbrough in the Cup if Derby defeat Coventry City wanting to earn that big move. Now, if one comes next Wednesday.

A spokesman for Derby-shire Police said: "Chesterfield along, great. If not, then I can live with it because I can appreciate what we are and Derby are only 26 miles

achieving here." David Jones, the Stockport manager, has fostered an



The imposing presence of Angell has inspired an unlikely attack on the Coca-Cola Cup.

atmosphere of fevered ambition at the club. "If they don't want to go on to bigger things, then I don't want them here," he said vesterday. Angell, though, is a rare exception because he has already done it, albeit briefly.

for Everton, an uncomfortable outsider during the unhappy reign of Mike Walker. Then, signed by Mick Buxton

He played barely 15 games for Sunderland, he did not

manage ten games under the new manager, Peter Reid. Each time he was denied a fair opportunity because the club was in turmoil.

He refuses, however, to look. for excuses. "I could blame the circumstances but I am an honest person - too honest sometimes — and I can hold my hands up and say I didn't do the business when I was in the team, I didn't score the goals," he said.

"It is something I have brought back to Stockport with me. I am not bitter, if anything I feel the opposite, because I don't think I have anything to prove. But I still have ambition and I want to ,be a success here, get us into the final and win promotion."

A towering centre forward, Angell is often described as "old-fashioned" in the sense that his ability in the air perhaps outweighs his con-

trol or mobility. He is no mug though and represents Stockport's best chance against a Middlesbrough defence that even the kindest observers would describe as

It is Angell's experience on what will be a venture into the unknown that will be most valuable to Stockport. He has the presence and intelligence to calm those around him, to remind them that they are simply contin-uing an adventure started with the defeat of Blackburn Rovers, rather than entering the pressure-laden environs of a semi-final And he believes, passionately, that they can progress to the

"Middlesbrough will be really have much to lose," he said. "The fact is that they are a Premiership side and we are from the second division, so we really shouldn't be expected to win — and we know that we would have no chance in the Premiership. because we couldn't do it week in, week out.

"But we do know that we can do it occasionally, as our wins over Rovers, West Ham and Southampton have proved. This is where it gets tricky, because suddenly we have all the pressure, the interest, the tension that a semi brings. But if we can reproduce our best form then we know we can beat them.

tockport and now Wrexham and Chesterfield have proved that there is quality in more and more Premiership managers say that there are not the players to be found lower down any more. Why the apparent contradiction?

Angell believes that it is the permicious effect of money that is slowly ripping the game apart .

"There are plenty of players in our division who could play in the Premiership, but these days they cost real money," he said. "In the past, a lower-division player could go into the reserves at a bigger club and experience slowly what it is all about.

"Nowadays, if a player costs a million pounds then he has to go straight into the team because everything is instant. Money demands instant success. It is too much of a. level on those terms, even though the players are there

Stockport are intent on proving as much this evening, as they look to give another of the Premiership aristocrats a bloodied nose. With an Angell hovering at the far post, who would bet against it?

Boyd ban adds to selection worries for Burns

By Our Sports Staff

mards en

TOM BOYD, the Celtic defender, will miss the Bell's Scottish League premier division match against Rangers next month, as well as a possible Old Firm meeting in the quarter-final of the Tennents Scottish Cup. Boyd was booked in the 1-1 draw with Hibernian at Easter Road in the fourth-round tie on Monday night, and will now be suspended for three matches next month.

The Scotland international will miss Celtic's away game against Kilmarnock on March 4, the Cup quarter-final home tie against Rangers on March 8 — assuming that Celtic beat Hibernian in their replay at Parkhead next Wednesday and the home game against Rangers on March 16.

It is a setback for Tommy Burns, the Celtic manager, whose side trails Rangers, the champions and leaders by seven points. Burns is also without Jackie McNamara. his Scotland international right back, who is struggling with a hamstring injury. Mc-Namara missed the cup-tie on Monday night and is doubtful for the match away to Mother-

well on Saturday. Alan Stubbs is already ruled out of that match because of a one-match ban after exceeding

the 16-point disciplinary limit. On top of injury and suspensions. Burns's selection process is also being hindered by international call-ups. After being without Jorge Cadete, their Portugal international striker, on Monday because of his country's match against Greece tonight, Burns could lose Pierre Van Hooijdonk for the replay next Wednesday. The striker is expected to be named in the Holland squad for the match against France

in Paris on the same night. Hibernian now face two trips to Glasgow in four days, as they play Rangers at Ibrox on Sunday in a premier division match before the cup replay with Celtic . They may be struggling in the league but their bank balance has re-ceived a healthy boost from their exploits in the Cup. The replay will earn them around £200,000.

Brighton poll plan gets cool reception

By Our Sports Staff

PAUL SCALLY, the Gilling-ham chairman, has asked representatives of Brighton and Hove Albion supporters to carry out a survey to determine whether fans want the proposed ground-share at Priestfield to go ahead.

His move follows a threat to scrap the two-year arrangement because of fierce opposi-tion from some Brighton supporters, who object to making a round trip of 170 miles to attend home games.

Liz Costa, vice-chair of the official supporters' club, said yesterday that she thought the Gillingham chairman was wrong to put the onus on Brighton fans. "If Mr Scally believes he has made a mistake, it is for him to tear up the contract," she said. "I've had discussions with him ... and he wants us to talk to other supporters' groups to see if

another survey is needed. "But our first survey resulted in only 2 per cent of fans saying they were prepared to go to Gillingham, while 75 per cent said they would go but only if the club had new owners and there was a new stadium to come back to."

Ian Hart, co-editor of the Brighton fanzine, Gulls Eye, said that the Brighton chairman, Bill Archer, should pursue one of two options if Scally pulls out, leaving Brighton homeless at the end of the season. He said: "Archer could try and go in with the consornum leader, Dick Knight, and... attempt to get a temporary ground in the Brighton area, or he could negotiate a deal with the developers. Chartwell, to remain at the Goldstone Ground which, I'm led to believe, is still an option.

"If Brighton had to sell their ground to cover debts, fair enough, but they should have had a leaseback agreement so Chartwell could not bring in the bulldozers before the new ground was finished." Cardiff supporters will not

be allowed to attend the third division match against Swansea at the Vetch Field on March 2. because of a history of trouble between

Juventus endorse benefits of Oxford education

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON IN GENOA

AS THE repercussions of the Bosman ruling continue to rumble on, with football's borders broken down, the exchange of talent between countries took an unlikely twist yesterday - from Juventus, of Italy, to Oxford United, of the Nationwide League first division. Negotiations between the clubs, spearheaded by Robin Herd, the

apart and we do not have the

resources to man both Cup

games on the same day."

Oxford chairman, are at an advanced stage. Though the move was greeted by surprise in Italy,

Juventus are believed to be interested in using the club as a "finishing school" for their most promising 19 and 20-year-old players. If it is

Bag this



LIVE COCA COLA CUP ACTION 9/4 STOCKPORT 9/4 DRAW MIDDLESBRO' Evs.

Edgeley Park, Kick-off 7.45pm, Live on ITV. CORRECT SCORE 8/1 . STOCKPORT 1-0 6/1 MIDDLESBRO' 1-0 2-0 8/1 MIDDLESBRO' 2-0 12/1 STOCKPORT 0-0 8/1 MIDDLESBRO' 2-1 8/1 DRAW

1-1 14/1 MIDDLESBRO' 3-1

FIRST GOALSCORER

11/2 DRAW

4/1 RAVANELLI (M) 8/1 HIGNETT (M) 6/1 BECK (M) 8/1 JUNINHO (M) 8/1 MUTCH (S) 13/2 ANGELL (S) 7/1 ARMSTRONG (5) 10/1 CAVACO (5) Own goals do not count. Other players on request LATEST 0095 Oil William Bill TV TEXT - Natural on CH4 Nov/92/423

sanctioned by the Football League and Football Association, the arrangement, which also includes an exchange of ideas, could come into force "It is very exciting but

Juventus are not just going to send us players," Herd said.
"They have managed to combine the traditional technical brilliance of the continentals with the power and pace of the British. They will also be showing us how they go about doing it."

It was news, too, to the Football League delegation here in Genoa, on the north west coast of Italy, for the representative game between the Nationwide League and Serie B at the Luigi Ferraris Stadium, home of Sampdoria and Genoa, this afternoon. The immediate reaction was one of caution.

David Sheepshanks, the new chairman of the Football League, said: The exchange of views, skills and coaching welcomed but we have to be careful about preserving a level playing field for everyone in the League. We have to be sure it fits comfortably with the wishes of the majority." The long-term loaning of

young players, usually for a season, is commonplace in the Italian league. Seven of those in the Serie B squad to play the Nationwide League have

"TEAMS" NATIONNMDE LEAGUE: A Marstadi Nor-wich Celyi: A Moses (Barneley), A Rodgers Franmere Bosers), C Sermet (Odricon Ambebo, D Mille (Normich Chy), D Hamilton (Bradfond Chy), C Holland (Barnenham (Py), B Hophes (Merchan), L Bradbury (Portsmouth), M Bollock (Barneley), B Dyw (Crystal Palace) Substitutes: K Osele (Luton Town), D Purse (Odord United), S Newton (Charlton Artisto), S Taylor (Bolton Wanderers), 1 Lawson (Hudders-held Town)

SERIE B (probable): M Genello (Chono): D Baccin (Casona). E Broschi (Veneza), S Larna (Chove). L Mezzano (Tomo), A Pittibu (Genea). G Per Rutzhu (Genea). G Tedesco (Palemo, A Zanchetta Fogga). C Zanetti (Veneza). M Compologica): Substitutes: M Roccuti (Ravenna). Substitutes: M Roccuti (Ravenna). S Mercuti (Tomo). G Zanetti (Casona). G Zanetti (Casona).

been farmed out from clubs in Brian Horton, the Hudders-

field Town manager, who is coaching the Nationwide League side, expects a formidable task. His line-up comprises of only under-2l players, even though they are among the most highly rated in the league.

This is very important for their education," Horton said. "Some of them have hardly been abroad let alone plaved there. You always take pride in any game, and always want to win, but the main object is for them to go out and enjoy it. They have nothing to lose, nothing to fear, and it should be a valuable experience for all of them."

Horton is likely to utilise the majority of his squad at some stage and for Darren Purse, 20, one of the substitutes, it is perhaps an ideal opportunity. Should the Oxford central defender come on and produce a good display, the Juventus scouts may be watching.

Wright price persuades Forest

NOTTINGHAM Forest have agreed to sell Tommy Wright, the Northern Ireland international goalkeeper, to Manchester City, but not before he has made one final appearance for the struggling FA Carling Premiership side

(Richard Hobson writes). Wright is on loan at Maine Road and will continue to train with City. However, he will return to Forest to play against Tottenham Hotspur on March I because Mark Crossley is suspended after his sending-off in the FA Cup fifth-round tie against Ches-

terfield on Saturday. The clubs have agreed a fee of £450,000 and Wright is prepared to sign the necessary documents immediately after the Forest chairman, has givthe game at White Hart Lane. en his strongest hint yet that

Forest have ensured that Nigel Clough will remain with them on loan from City for a third month. It is the second time that

Frank Clark, the City manager, has signed Wright. Four years ago, as the Forest manager, he bought him from Newcastle United, also for £450,000, but the form of Crossley and a succession of injuries has restricted him to only ten league games.

Wright, 33, said that he almost retired 15 months ago. but his fortunes improved when he went to Reading on loan. He regained his international place on the back of those performances. Meanwhile, Irving Korn.

the club will be forced to sell its best players if the takeover situation is not resolved at an extraordinary general meeting on Monday next week. There are two bids and, if neither is accepted, the club will be in a position the next day where it will have to raise substantial funds urgently." Korn said. Doug Sharpe, the Swansea

City chairman, has put the Nationwide League third division side back up for sale at £300,000 — a fifth of the sum that he says the club owes him. Sharpe's decision comes against a background of dis-putes between him and Jan Molby, the player-manager. "I have done my best to keep the club in the top four." Sharpe said. "That's my lot."

Eriksson signals Blackburn doubt

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON IN GENOA SVEN GORAN ERIKSSON.

Sampdoria's Swedish coach. yesterday gave the strongest indications yet that he will not be joining Blackburn Rovers for the start of next season. Even though Eriksson signed a three-year contract at Ewood Park two months ago, it is now expected that he will leave Sampdoria, the Serie A

Eriksson, 49, one of Europe's most respected coaches, was speaking at Sampdoria's training ground in the foot-hills of Bogliasco, near Genoa, on the Mediterranean coast.

club based here, for Lazio, of



mately disappointed. "I know more or less what I will do." Eriksson, who has spent five

Eriksson: strong hint Though he declined to be drawn on his decision, and phrased his words diplomatically, Italian sources believe that Blackburn will be ulti-

years with Sampdoria, said. "It is very difficult at the moment, there is a big question mark for a lot of people, and it is very awkward for me. "I can't really talk about the situation - in Italy, we are not supposed to talk about these things until the end of the season - but when it is time, I

will tell everyone. Perhaps in

two weeks, we will see." Eriksson, who has also coached IFK Gothenburg, Benfica, AS Roma and Fiorentina, is understood now to favour a return to Rome to replace Zdenek Zeman, who was dismissed a fortnight ago. rather than sample the delights of Lancashire However, he has kept Robert Coar, the Blackburn chairman, in-

formed of his feelings.
"I have been in good contact with Blackburn and I talk to them regularly," Eriksson said. They are aware of what is happening." Significantly, though, he has not spoken with Tony Parkes, who took over when Ray Harford resigned in October and, in a caretaker capacity, has helped to lift the dub away from the relegation zone in the FA Carling Premiership.

When Eriksson signed for Blackburn for a salary reported to be El million a year, Sampdoria were struggling in Serie A. Ironically, they have since regained their form and lie second in the table behind Juventus. "Nobody can believe that we could play so well," he

☐ Berti Vogts, the Germany coach, yesterday selected the South African-born Sean Dundee in his squad for an international against Israel on February 26, just two months after the Karlsruhe striker became a German citizen.

Dundee, the Bundesliga's top scorer this season with 14 goals to his name, applied for German citizenship using a special fast-track method for cases of "public interest".

His decision to apply for a German passport sparked outrage in his native country, where politicians accused him of turning his back on South Africa and called for the move to be blocked.

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IN BRIEF

Financial

threat to

Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE county cricket

club could face a heavy financial burden if it goes ahead with plans to leave Headingley and set up a new ground near Wakefield. Paul

Caddick, chairman of Leeds Cricket, Football and Atheltics Club, the owners of the dualpurpose complex at Headingley, said yesterday that he intends to enforce the terms of

a 99-year agreement that the

company has with the county.

which still has some 84 years

He said: We are not pre-

pared to release Yorkshire

from their obligations and commitment to promote

Headingley and ensure it re-tains its status as a permanent

another ground at Durkar,

their obligations to promote Headingley will remain until

- if ever - they are released."

Tennis: Bjorn Borg and John

McEnroe will be back in London this year to renew

their classic rivalry at the Albert Hall, which will be the

venue for the last event of the

European ATP Senior Tour of

Champions season, from

Borg and McEnroe, who

had two memorable duels at

Wimbledon, will be among

those competing on the tour.

Other former favourites

include Jimmy Connors, Pat

Cash, Yannick Noah and

Test match venue.

Brat back

December 5 to 8.

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RUGBY UNION

Scots point Hastings towards end of the road

BY MARK SOUSTER

THE international career of Scott Hastings, Scotland's most-capped player, appears to have ended after his omission from the squad to play Ireland in the five nations' championship at Murrayfield on Saturday week. Having been dropped to the bench after the defeat by Wales, Hastings now finds himself totally excluded, as are Ronnie Eriksson and Derek Stark. who both played against England. Hastings has proved people wrong before but, this time, there is little chance of a reprieve.

While Hastings mulls over the possibility of an enforced retirement. Alan Tait, at 32 the same age as the Watsonian, can contemplate a renewed call to arms. The public clamour for his return has finally been heeded and he is one of three changes, all in the back division, to the 21-man squad announced yesterday.

SQUAD

With only two specialist: centres included. Tait, of Newcastle - who only returned from rugby league at the start of the season — looks certain to win his ninth cap, nine years after he last appeared, against England at Murrayfield. Tait has been "firing on all cylinders" this season, David Johnston, the backs' coach, said. He added that Hastings had not played well for Edinburgh in the Heineken Cup and his form compared unfavourably with

Eriksson, a try-scorer at Twickenham, is now considered too limited a player for the game to which Scotland aspire, while Stark was apparently found wanting in too many areas against England. However, there is a heartwarming return to the squad for Cameron Glasgow, who, despite years of faithful service, remains uncapped. Hav-

By BRIAN CLARKE

VITAL steps that could

lead to the emergence of the

unified voice that angling so

needs, will be announced in

the next few days. The princi-

pal bodies which represent the

sport - the Salmon and Trout

Association, the National Fed-

eration of Anglers (NFA) and the National Federation of Sea

Anglers - have agreed to

produce a four-year, co-

ordinated plan for their educa-

tion and training needs. At the

same time they have agreed

draft proposals for a new

umbrella body.

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Maria Cara

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ing faded from the picture after the 1995 World Cup. Glasgow has enjoyed a new lease of life this season.

His versatility, pace and footballing skills have brought him back to the fore at a time when such commodities are keenly appreciated. The game is moving back in his direction," Johnston said. "He has always been a player with incredible talent."

Duncan Hodge, of Watson-ians, promoted from the A team, is one of three selected players who prefer to play at stand-off half. He is a proven goalkicker, which may yet see him selected at No 10 ahead of Craig Chalmers, with Gregor Townsend likely to partner Tait at centre. It might be a gamble, but then Scotland have few other options.

Off the field, Johnston yesterday dismissed the muchtrumpeted restructuring of the Scottish Rugby Union announced on Monday as "largely cosmetic". Apart from the co-option of several highprofile businessmen, Johnston believes that little has or will change, and that a lack of democracy and accountability will still exist. However, he hopes that men such as Sir William Purves, Dr George Mathewson and David Murray will bring with them "an infusion of objectivity", at the verv least.

Johnston also questions why the administration has not been streamlined. "From a general committee of 18, I now count 56 positions of authority," he said. "With all the positions salaried, and a fulltime executive of over 50 at Murrayfield, could we be over-egging the goose [sic], given our rughy population? How much will all this cost?

Too many administrators

have been co-opted. Johnston added, when what was needed was a structure "which will encourage everyone associated with the game to be a candidate for positions of authority, not just a select few." Stellenbosch University, the beaten finalists last season, will return for the Bell's Melrose Sevens, at the Greenyards on April 12. Joining them from overseas are Gordon RFC, from Sydney. and Cascais RFC, from Portugal. The fourth guest side is Cambridge University.

The decisions were taken

last week to speak with a

single voice on a range of common issues including fish-

eries regulation, water re-

sources, cormorant predation

and funding from, among

others, the Sports Council and

on education and training -

an area seen as vital in

recruiting young people - will be put into effect at once.

Proposals for the new um-

breila body, which would

include representatives of the

National Association of Fish-

eries and Angling Consult-

Proposals for the joint plan

the National Lottery.



Vidiri escapes from the clutches of the grounded Pilgrim as Auckland Blues take the game to Harlequins at the Stoop yesterday

Harlequins emerge with heads held high

Auckland Blues33

By JOHN HOPKINS

AFTER the swath that Otago cut through English rugby and Auckland's demolition of Bristol last week. Harlequins had to stop more of the same. Not only did they do so at the Stoop memorial ground, but they also led for nearly an hour against the Super 12 champions and thoroughly embarrassed their distinguished visitors.

The pitch resembled a quagmire. Midway through the second half the Harlequins forwards changed their shirts.

Faces were unrecognisable, so thickly coated were they in mud. To see nine tries scored in such a zestful game helps to explain why 9,000 spectators left the ground feeling satisfied and why the gates were closed on some before kick-off.

When was the last time Auckland trailed by 17 points? The men from New Zealand were outplayed by the speed of the Harlequins forwards to the loose ball, their ability to win rucks, to harass and to destroy in such treacherous conditions. Harlequins deserved to lead 22-12 at halftime, after tries by Dominic Chanman, Peter Mensah and Gareth Llewellyn. Auckland attempted to play a game

more suited to a firmer pitch and, not surprisingly, they could not do it well. Mass replacement at half-

time by Harlequins meant a new side in the second half. It is doubtful whether Will Carling. Llewellyn and Jason Leonard had enough energy left to sustain another combative 40 minutes after their international games last Saturday and before an important cup game this Sunday.

With their departure, Harlequins lost any chance of victory. Slowly, Auckland hauled themselves back into the game. Brian Lima dodged over from five vards. Adrian Cashmore, who had converted one try in the first half, kicked

had Auckland regained the lead than Nick Walshe, a lively scrum half, scored the try that, when converted by Corcoran, gave Harlequins the lead once more.

But even in such alien conditions, Auckland have enough experience to cope and their pride was at stake, too. A series of surges took them to the Harlequins line and Richard Fromont scored from a lineout, before Cashmore kicked a penalty when the Harlequins backs were caught offside.

"We weren't right to play the game upstairs," Graham Henry, the Auckland coach.

his first penalty and Mark said. I felt that, after the Carter scored a try. Hardly match against Bristol, and over the weekend, there wasn't the usual intensity in training that there should have been. It

happens occasionally."

SCORERS: Heriequire: Tries: Chapman, Menser, Llewellyn, Walshe Conversions: Lordic, Llewellyn, Walshe Conversions: Lordic, Llewellyn, Worser, Conversions: Lordic, Auckland: Tries: Vidin Tonu'u, Lma, Caster, Ferman: Conversion: Casteriore Penelty goals: Casteriore P.). HARLECUINS: S Pigom; D Chapman, W Caring, P Menseh, D Luger: T Liscroe, N Walshe, J Leonard, T Billups, A Mullins, R Jankins, A Snow, Gareth Lewellyn, L Cabarnes, W Borson, Luger replaced by D O'Leary (amin): Lacroe replaced by L Gross (40): Levend replaced by L Bénézech 140; Levellyn replaced by L Bénézech 140; Carlong replaced by J Keyter (40): Cabennes, replaced by S Owen (40): Pigrim replaced by M Corcoran (55)

AUCKLAND: A Castmore: J Vidin, E Clarke, I Stemsness, B Lims; C Spencer, J Tonu'u; O Crawind, A Roose, O Brown, L Lelaiabí, R Fromorit, R Brooke, M Carter, C Rechelmann

Henri Leconte.
TOUR SCHEDULE: June 20-23: Prague
July 18-21: Porschach, Austra Sap 1922: Pais. Cot 10-13: Pesaro, Italy Nov 2124: Frankluri Dec 5-8: London. Goulding plea

Rugby league: Bobbie Goulding, the St Helens captain, who was banned by the Rugby Football League for eight games last week after being sent off in the fourth-round Silk Cut Challenge Cup match with Wigan, will have his appeal against the severity of the sentence heard tomorrow. Goulding had not been sent off for five years before the

Berger king

Motor racing: Gerhard Berger, of Austria, broke the track record at Estoril. Portugal, in his Bentton-Renault for the second time in two days yesterday during Formula One testing, covering a lap in Imin 18.65sec.

incident, seen live on BBC

Stan Pearson

Football: Stan Pearson, who scored one of the goals to help Manchester United win the 1948 FA Cup Final, has died at the age of 78.

GOLF: PGA HOPING TO EXPLOIT IMPACT BEING MADE BY THE US TOUR'S NEW STAR ATTRACTION

Officials believe Woods will act as inspiration

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE impact that Tiger Woods has had on the game in only six months as a professional could lead to greater interest in Britain, according to Sandy Jones, executive director of the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA). Jones, who has just returned from a trip to the United States, said: There is a whole new audi-

FISHING: SQUABBLING BODIES STRUGGLE TOWARDS UNITY TO SAFEGUARD FUTURE OF THE SPORT

Anglers cast for bigger say with single voice

atives, the Specimen Anglers'

Anglers Conservation Associ-

ation, will be circulated over

Angling's inability to speak

as one has cost it dear.

Rivalries between the three

groups have led to confusion

and often conflicting positions

even on matters of fundamen-

Relationships with govern-

ment departments have been

fouled, negotiations with the

former National Rivers Au-

thority on matters as basic as

rod licences were uncoordinat-

ed and funding from the

tal importance to each.

the next few weeks.

Conservation Group and the

sters who have never seen one sources in golf." before. There are eight, nine and ten-year-olds taking up the game because of him.

"I think we are definitely going to get a spin-off from it. All the main inner cities become possibilities for us and we are thinking of trying a pilot programme in Birmingham with minority groups. We need support for

but non-existent.

groups into action.

Perhaps most damaging

was the decision of the British

Field Sports Society (BFSS) -

a body which large numbers

of anglers believe should be

kept at arms length - to step

in to fill the vacuum. It was the

BFSS's decision to appoint its

own angling adviser that

eventually stung the angling

Many will regard it as a

pity, then, that the NFA yester-

day chose to cloud the an-

nouncement on unity by

unilaterally revealing propos-als for a £7.5 million National

Sports Council has been all Centre for Excellence in An-

Market research carried out

for the PGA has identified a snobbish attitude at some clubs as one of the reasons why there has been a sharp decline in the number of new players taking up the game.

gling, which would be based in Nottinghamshire. This bid

for Lottery cash comes hard on

the heels of an even more

ambitious - many would say

ludicrous - proposal from a

marketing company for a £55

ready refused to support the

Cheshire scheme. On Friday

they decided to study the need

for a national centre as part of

their four-year joint plan. The

NFA would have been advised

to rein back its own ambitions

until it knew the outcome of

the joint study.

The three bodies had al-

million centre in Cheshire.

Other reasons are expense, the amount of time taken to play a round and the game's technical difficulties. The in-

a host of other plans, which will be assisted financially by the 50 per cent of the profit, expected to be over £3 million. to be generated by this year's Ryder Cup.

The match in Valderrama

again," Jones said.

A national golf week to

promote the sport is being

held in April and the PGA has

ence for golf — he is putting clubs in the hands of young— that and I don't think we can dustry is not buoyant at the in September is already a sell moment and we are trying to out, all 28,000 tickets for the make the business grow week having been sold at £150. There is a waiting list of over a thousand. "The trick, from the US

Masters in April through to the match, will be to find a ticket," Jones said. "The move to Spain has brought us a more international audience. For matches at The Belfry, there were always tickets available.

TENNIS

Henman scrambles to victory

TIM HENMAN, the Great Britain No I, managed a scrambled victory over Sergi Bruguera, of Spain, in the first round of the European Community championship in Antwerp yesterday.

Henman, the No6 seed, has failed to rediscover the form that swept him to the Sydney International title and the final of the Qatar Open at the start of the year. His slump culminated in defeat by Martin Sinner, of Germany, in the first round of the Dubai Onen last week.

Yesterday, Henman showed every sign of having lost confidence in his 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 victory. His backhand reneatedly let him down against Bruguera, twice the winner of the French Open. Bruguera, a wild-card entry, is ranked No 47 in the world, 28 places

below Henman. Henman, however, had beaten him 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 in Sydney. The Briton took the first set and was twice a break up in the second before Bruguera squared the match at one set all.

In a third set of missed opportunities on both sides. Henman's erratic backhand again failed and Bruguera hung on to his service to go 3-2 up. Games went with service to 4-4, before Henman gained the only break of the set and served for victory.

Henman's problems may have been caused, however, by a groin injury he has suffered in the past few weeks.

He will join Thomas Enqvist, the defending champion, and Malivai Washington, the Wimbledon runner up, in the Indian Open in Madras in April. ☐ Greg Rusedski, the Britain No 2, has pulled out of the

ATP Tour event in Memphis because of his wrist injury.

SNOOKER

White rediscovering winning formula

BY PHIL YATES

generation by becoming the Benson and Hedges Masters champion. Jimmy White continued his revival by reaching the last 16 of the International Open in Aberdeen with a 5-1

win over Dave Finbow. White, who ended a 12-match losing run by beating Michael Judge by an identical score in the previous round, demonstrated that his confidence is gradually returning with a performance head and shoulders above any he has produced this season.

I'm quite close to really that's more than half the banle," White said. "It's a good feeling to do my playing out in the match arena instead of on the practice table."

White, who has slipped to No 36 in the provisional world

NINE days after Sieve Davis rankings, put together breaks struck a blow for the older of 54, 87, 46 and 109 — his first century in competition since losing 13-12 to Peter Ebdon in the last 16 at the Crucible ten months ago. Today he meets Nigel Bond, the No 5 seed, who beat David Roe 5-2. Ronnie O'Sullivan, who

admitted having difficulty erasing the memory of his collapse against Davis in the Masters final, recovered from being 3-1 down to defeat Stuart Pettman 5-3. He goes forward to face Dene O'Kane, of New Zealand, whose surprise 5-2 victory over James Wattana was his first success in four

meetings with the Thai. O' Sullivan fared better than his Masters conqueror Davis, who lost 5-3 to Chris Small at 12.35am yesterday. Their war of attrition lasted for four hours and 58 minutes.

BOWLS BECKENI-MAI: Churchill Insurance English Players' Association championships: Regional play-offic Quertar-finals: P Bernicori (Mole Park) bit C. Jumes (Oyster) 7-3, 7-4; B Jenkins (Cambnoge Park) bit P Vamvecopoulos (Wey Valley) 6-7, 7-5, 7-1; B Viciaers (Cyphers) bit J. Multigan (London) 7-1, 0-7, 7-6; G Charlton (Folkestone) bit D Holmas (Oyster) 7-4, 1-7, 7-6; I Jentins (Cambridge Park) bit C Bryan (Barlong) 7-5, 7-3; R Moses (Preston, Brighton) bit O Ovett (Preston, Brighton) 7-5, 7-1; D O'Toole (Mey Valley) to K Coomber (Cyphers) 7-5, 7-5; Semi-finals: Barnicot bit B Jentins 7-6, 6; S Spokley (London) bit R Git (Cyphers) 7-6, 7-4; Victors bit Charlton 7-1, 9-7, 7-2; Jentins bit Moses 7-5, 7-5; O'Toole 7: Suculsiy 3-7, 7-6, 7-2; Finals: Bernicot bit Victors 7-3, 7-6; I Jenkins bit O'Toole 7-6, 7-1

BASKETBALL NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (REA): Washington 95 Milwaukee 92; Cleveland 108 New Jersey 101; Indiana 105 Toronto 103; Chariotle 124 Oriando 110; Houston 127 Alfanta 98; Seatile 113 Boston 108, Vancouver 95 Dellas 100

CAPE TOWN: Tour match (find day of three) Australians 439-4 dae and 175-8 dae (G.S. Blewett 86; J.H. Kallet 4-48); Western Province 261-5 dec and 321 (H.H. Gibbs 80; J.B. Commens 51; A.J. Buchet 5-62; Australians beat Western Province by 32 runs RED STRIPS CUP (final day of four); San Fernando, Trinidad: Jamaica 349 and 201-5 dec (J.C. Adams 67; (Gamido 61); Trinidad and Tobago 256 and 118-5 (S. Regoonstit 54 run) out. Match desans. Georgetown: Guysna v Windward Islands. Match abandoned because of rain

CYCLING RUTA DEL SOL: Second stage (1802km La Rinconada to Puente Gent): 1, J Museave (Rel) Mape: 4th 22min 56sec 2, E Zabe (Reg Germany 3, V Edimor (Russ) US Postal: 4, S Smetanine (Russ) Toscat: 5, A Cartzomeri (R) Sacot; 6, E Dekker (Hol) Rabobaris, at same time. Leading overall positions: 1, Zebel 7th 8min 7sec, 2, J Perincent Bell Lotti; 3, Smetanine; 4, Museaux; 5, R McEuren (Ausr Rabobanis; 6. FOOTBALL

FOR THE RECORD

Monday's late results TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Founth round: 1-Sharnian 1 Cellic 1. VALIXHALL CONFERENCE: Stevenege 2 FA UMBRO TROPHY: Second round, second replay: Bromsgrove 0 Hyde 2. UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Ashlon

United 2 Westington 2.
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Workster Chy 0. Gloucester Chy 0.
PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Wohenhampton 4 Shelheld United 2 League Cup: Group three: Whetham 4 Stockport 0. FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round: Pelethor-outh 1 Crestal Palece 3.

FA YOUTH CUP. Fourth round: Peterbor-quigh 1 Crystal Palaces 3. SCHOOLS MATCHES: International match: Under 16: England 2 Sweden 2 (at Lileshall). FA Premier tengue under 15 Trophy: Hartfordshire 1 Inner London 2. London Cup: Hertfordshire 1 Inner London 5. English Knowles Cup: Under-14: Hert-lordshire 2 Inner London 3. English Smitchers under 19 Trophy: Seaton High, Nor-thumbertend 2 Wolfreton, Humberside 0

ICE HOCKEY NATIONAL LEAGUE (NML): NY Islanders 1 Montreel 4; NY Rangers 2 New Jersey 2 (OT): Los Angeles 1 Dates 2; Tempa Bey 3 Detroù 3 (OT): Anshelm 4 Edmonton 1; St Louis 4 Chicago 2

HOWING TIDEWAY: Landon University Trisls: Mag-nanimity: Bow, J Burton (Bedford and Ouean Mary Westfield); No 2, R. Adams (Oratory and Kings) No 3, J. Edwards (Bodford and Kings) Four, M. Skinner Kingston Grammar and UCL) Five, S. Felchouse (Kingston Grammar and Queen Mary Westfield) Str. D. Winghi (Reading Blue Cost and Royal Holloway) Seven, R. Peny (Bedford and Goldsmitte). Stroke. R. Ochobor (Fampon and Chang) Cross and Westminster). Cox. C. Comack (Hampton and UCL) Defence: Bow. T. McGibbon (St. William Bortess and UCL). Tinte. N. Story (Fortigineticle) and Kings; Four, S. Whitelson Kings. Wirthfeldon and ICC; Five, A. McCartter, Pignim School and UCL). Str. D. Burton (St. Edwards and Kings) Seven. D. Beddey (Hemoton and UCL). Stroke. D. Hutchmar (Abingdon and Kings) Seven. D. Beddey (Hemoton and UCL). Grommit Bow. E. Gudgin (Floyal Free Two. K. Hestings (UCL). Three, E. Handswood (Gueen Mary Westfield) Stroke. T. Rooks (UCL) Wellace. Bom., M. Myers. (UCL). Two, L. Anandsle.

Rom, M. Myers (UCL) Two, L. Anandale (Royal Fied), Three, C. Vincent (Royal Holloway) Stroke, C. Dring (Tynan) RUGBY UNION Tour match

Harlequins 29 Auckland 33 Harlequins: Tries: Chapman, Geneth Lieweilym, Mchault, Welshe Cons: Co-coren, Lexrolt 2 Perr: Lacroux Auckland: Tries: Carter, Fromont, Lima, Tom'u, Vidin. Con: Cashmore Penes Cashmore 2

SNOOKER ABERDEEN: International Open (England unless states): Second round: J Swell (N let) bt K Doheny (Re) 5-3; A McNanus (Scot) to S Lee 5-2; J Heggers (Scot) to O layer (N ke) 5-1; D Harold ht S James 5-0; C Smell (Scot) bt S Davis 5-3; D O Kane (NZ) bt J Wattens (Theil 5-2; M Williams (Wates) bt A Hicks 5-3; N Bond bt D 5-2; R O'Subsen bt S Petimen 5-3; A Drago (McNa) bt S Ali (Pek) 5-4; J White bt D Finbott 5-1.

Lilensen (US) 7-6. 7-5: G Ruenten (Gr) bit B Black (Zm) 6-2, 6-7, 7-8: S Larenou (Car) bit J Hode (Swe) 2-6, 6-3, 7-5: J Elungh (Holl) bit J-M Gernbeit (US) 6-3, 6-3: 8 Shefron (US) bit S Bryan (US) 5-7, 7-6. 6-4; J Carneldob (US) bit J Grabb (US) 4-6, 6-3, 7-6. J Franc (Aug) bit M Faipurn (Unu) 6-4, 6-4
ANTWERP: Mem's sournament: First round: M Darron (C2) bit M Strees (Ger) 6-7; 6-4, 6-3: M Talishom (Swe) bit M Gumy (Arg) 4-6, 6-7, 6-4 F Memile (Sp) bit M Rerbecher (Ger) 6-2, 6-1: D Norman (Bel) bit B Ultimath (C2) 5-2 ret hurt. N Kieller (Ger) bit J Sementek (Holl) 3-6, 6-4, 7-5: J Sanchez (Sp) bit H Dreebman (Ger) 6-4, 6-2: N Noder (Ger) bit J Sementek (Holl) 3-6, 6-4, 7-5: J Sanchez (Sp) bit H Dreebman (Ger) 6-4, 6-2: N Noder (Ger) bit M Rossel (Smitz) bit A Medivedev (Ulo) 7-8, 6-2, 7 Henritan (GB) bit S Bruguera (Sp) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, M Golfner (Ger) bit M Short (Ger) 7-6, 6-4

6,64
HANOVER: Women's tournement: First round: B Paulus (Austria) of A Miller (US) 6-0,6-0; M Maleeva (Bul) of S Farma (t) 6-2,6-1; Y Bassud (Indio) of E Cellen's (Bel) 3-6,6-1; 6-4
OKLAHOMA CITY: Women's tournement: First round: L. Reymond (9S) bit K Kschwendt (Austria) 5-7,6-2,7-5; R Sempson (Cenn) for Hindi (Japan) 6-3,8-6,6-3, C Christea (Rom) of J Watanabe (US) 6-4,6-2, F Luberra (It) of A Fracter (US) 7-6,7-5

7-5 PRIDDE: LTA women's lournament (GB unless stated): Pirst round: C Teytor by J Abe (Ger) 6-3, 6-1; L Latimer by A Moratolo (Sp) 6-3, 6-0, N Dectry (Fr) bit B Schwerz Austina) 6-4, 6-2; E Teachone (Usy) bit S Park, (S Kon) 6-4, 6-1; S Georgea (Fr) bit Pack, (S Kon) 6-4, 6-1; S Georgea (Fr) bit Pack, (S Kon) 6-6, 6-1; S Georgea (Fr) bit A Manesmo (Fr) 2-6, 6-4, 7-6; P Georgea (Hun) bit K Takume (Japan) 1-6, 6-2, 6-3; S Hother (Kol) bit N Guse (Aus) 6-3, 6-3; O Berghamochikova (Bele) bit L Woodrolle 6-3, 6-2; S-4 Stidash bit E Bond 4-6, 6-1, 6-0; C Torrete-Valero (Sp) bit M Myoz (Pol) 6-3, 7-

Tomers-Valero (Sp) bi M Mroz (Pol) 6-3, 7-5; L Ahl bi S Kloesel (Ger) 6-1, 6-4

SNOW REPORTS Conditions Runs to ste Off/p resort Piste AUSTR/A 15 80 good varied fair clou.
(Good piste skiing: satari links open)
45 50 good varied closed clou.
(Dusting of new snow; good sking most rurs)
40 160 good varied good sno
(Excellent skiing but mixed visibility) cloud 3 16/2 cloud Mayrhoten Obergurgi 30 50 good powder fair clou (Plenty of good skiring: Hauser Karbling first class Schladming cloud FRANCE z 120 260 good varied good snow -1 18/2 (Visibility very poor but snow in excellent shape) 45 240 good varied fair cloud 3 18/2 (Mixed conditions but generally good some slush) 95 250 good heavy good snow -8 18/2 (Very good sking on all runs but white-out conditions) 20 180 good varied worm snow 0 18/2 La Clusaz Flaine (very good stalling this but will-out continuous)
20 180 good varied worm snow 0 18/2
(Generally good but some krykrom spots low down)
50 185 good varied good cloud 2 18/2
ish snow with more forecast; poor visibility) Membel (Some he ITALY 90 350 good crust good sni (Good sking at all Jevels but varied visibility) S/TQW 95 190 good varied good cloud (Great skiing throughout resort powder available) -3 14/2 Livigno 60 60 good varied good snow (Good sking on all slopes: occasional hard patch) Geilo SWITZERLAND 35 300 good powder good snow
(More snow talling, praspects excellent)
30 180 good varied good cloud
(Flat light above tree-line but good lower down)
100 350 good powder good snow
(More tresh snow and poor visibility: outlook good)
50 140 good varied good lair
(Very good sking on well prepared pistes)
10 110 good varied good lair
(Snowing above 1,400m; generally excellent sking) Klosters Saas Fee St Montz

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain L - lower slopes: U -

هِ وَ امن رالامهل

Fate bowls Tufnell another wrong 'un

one stage, contemplating life, he says: "I want to be good boyo -but they won't let me." Phil Tufnell to a tee. The real shock, of course, is that England have won a Test series, not that one of the players has been accused of smoking cannabis.

Tufnell, for it is he, has been smoking dope in a disabled 'Leader of the Awkward persons lavatory allegedly. Allegedly, Squad of one' for I have done my journalistic law

course, the entire basis of which is the talismanic properties of that magical word. To say "alleged" is the next best thing to the person being dead.

So let us say that Phil Tufnell, alleged left-arm spinner, allegedly a crucial part in England's allegedly triumphant winter, has, it is alleged, been smoking cannabis in one of New Zealand's allegedly good restaurants. I think I'm safe in saying all

But the point is that I can forget all the "alleged" business I ever heard about when I come to the crucial part of the latest alleged Tufnell story.

ogood Boyo is a character in Philip Clive Roderick Tufnell is born Under Milk Wood. And at to trouble as the sparks fly upward.

You don't have to know his history to see that: the fine for "conduct unbecoming to an England cricket-er": the fine in Enfield Magistrates Court after a dispute with his former girlfriend, mother of his child; his two-year absence from international The drugs in the lav story pro-duces nothing but a weary sigh. Here we go again. And it would be Tufnell, despairing of him.

to see him in his cricket whites. Americans call sports clothes a "uniform". The uniform of cricket whites makes players look what they are: strong individuals

with a shared purpose. Whites make some people look impossibly officer class, others like salt-of-the-earth sergeants, others like gungho privates. All these are recognisable types, each with an accepted role in team dynamics. Even the most flamboyantly independent people play their parts in the mystery that turns individuals into a team.

But not Tufnell. One look at him is enough: a person permanently indigestible. He is leader of the Awkward Squad of one. He could make the mildest of sergeants apoplectic just by looking like himself. He doesn't need

the vastly experienced Olympic medal-

winner, at stroke and, in two downstream

rows - one from Isleworth to Kew, and one

from Chiswick to the Bandstand - they won

by two-thirds of a length and half a length.

Defiance, stroked by Dave Hutchins, a

British junior international, led the first heat

by three-quarters of a length after one minute before being overhauled. Magnanimity led

TRIATHLON: ORGANISERS REVEAL PLAN TO REPRODUCE LONDON MARATHON FORMULA IN TRIPLICATE

"We see it becoming very

big." Elaine Shaw, the chief

executive of the BTA, said. It

will be the climax to the

British grand prix series this

year, and Shaw hopes that it

may, in the long term, gain World Cup status. We think

that, for a major event in this

country, including mass par-

ticipation, London is the right

Beginning with a swim in

West India Dock, incorporat-

ing a cycle circuit out towards

the City Airport and ending

should it achieve the numbers

world," Smithwick said. "We

Chicago is presently the big-

always had so much potential

There will be three catego-

ries in London: Olympic dis-

place," she said.

by lack of vision."

Lunt said.

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

to behave badly to exasperate: that is the wonder of it.

You can never put your finger on why this is. That, for captains and coaches and sergeants, must be the most exasperating thing of all. He does not bear any of the traditional trademarks of the team's stock individualist; no long hair, no customised uniform. It is not the hair, but the expression as he peers through it; it is not the uniform, but the language of the body beneath it.

The diche "free spirit" is visited on such indigestible people, but that is not right for Tufnell. I wrote a biography of another difficult leftarm spinner, Phil Edmonds, some years ago, when Tufnell was no doubt driving schoolteachers rather than a nation mad. And Edmonds was something of a free spirit, rejoicing in his role of Brearley-balter and know-all

مِكذا من رلامل

But Tufnell does not set himself up as a rebel, still less a free spirit. He really tries to be just like the rest; normal. And he has

'He really

wants to

tried all winter to be Good Boyo. But then he has tried to be good for most of his career. John Emburey has taken an elder-broth-

erly role in looking after this turbulent person, because "the kid can bowl", because Emburev is just like that, because Tufnell always needs and wants guidance. And he really tries. David Lloyd, the England. coach, has not stopped praising him all through the tour, and Tufnell has been trying his best, to take wickets, to avoid trouble, to be Good Boyo. The microphones around the wicket testify to the truth of this. One of the sounds of the winter has been Tufnell's groan of disbelief and disappointment at any ball that fails to take a wicket: "Awwwww!

And yet, and yet - on the last day of proper cricketing business, as England win an overseas Test series 2-0 and enter the long-promised land of victory, the talking point is not the heroics of Atherton, coming good at the end of a troubled tour, but of Tufnell, coming bad at the end of an untroubled winter.

Or allegedly bad: but even the allegations are enough to sour the milk and honey. There has always been the theory that Tufnell will "grow up", but it is an in-eluctable fact of life that people either grow up at the appropriate age or not at be normal'

> Poor Tufnell, now 30. seems to have the curse of eternal youth. Perhaps his portrait in the attic reveals gravity, maturity and even happiness. But the Tufnell we see is indisputably a troubled man. The passive voice is appropriate here. Tufnell is one of those people whose role in life is, almost or completely despite himself, to be a vector for

He is not a troublemaker: he is the person troubles come to. He is not a rebel, but a man pursued by the furies. He is not a free spirit: but one for ever in the custody of his own troubled nature.

Negotiating a slippery poll

The opinion polling missire at the last general election has made the The opinion polling mistire at the last general election has made the coming election a crucial test for pollsters. So this edition of Flashpoints has particular significance. As Professor John Durant explains in the programme, misleading polls are by no means new and he takes the Truman-Dewey American Presidential election in 1948, in which the polls got it wrong in spectacular fashion, as the benchmark. He also explains what British polling organisations are doing to improve their forecasting and contrasts the very different doing to improve their forecasting and contrasts the very different approaches of pollsters at MORI and ICM. But will the key factor of 1992, when Conservatives tended to hide their intentions from pollsters, be any less likely to recur next time?

The Vegetable Patch: The Leek. Radio 4, 2.45pm.

The start of a series with a rare merit: each programme only lasts about ten minutes. There are all too few shorts on the radio but there should be made for about ten minutes. There are all too few shorts on the radio but there should be more, for short programmes give the schedules some rhythm, as Radio 3 has demonstrated with its interval feature during concerts. The Vegetable Patch is not just for gardeners, for it uses facts, music, recipes and background material to paint a word picture that is as much historical as horticultural. The first programme has the bonus of an unintended nod in the direction of What's My Line?, when it interviews Bill Williamson of the University of Durham: his father was a leek judge.

Peter Barnard

7,00am Mark Raddiffe, includes 7,30 Nassebeat 9,00 Strnon Mayo 12,00 Jo Whiley, includes 12,30pm Nawsbeat 2,00 Nicky Campbell 4,00 Kevin Green-ton Includes the Debug to 8,45 Nausbeat ncture vampbes 4.00 Kevin Greating, Includes the Drive-In 6.15 Newsbest 6.30 Evening Session 8.30 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anna Hobbs 1.00ana Claire Sturgess 4.00 Clive Warren

RADIO 2 6.00mm Serah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up To Wogan 9.30 Kan Bruce 11.30 Anne Robinson 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Jim Ed Stewart 5.05 JOHN ULIN 7.400 JOE 1. Loyd with Folk on Two 8.00 A Song for Geordie (7/7) 8.30 Joe Boyd — A World of Music A series looking at the work of the record producer Joe Boyd (1/4) 9.00 Antla Bhalla's Across Two Cultures. The range or marks a revolution, the first of a new series which meets prominent Asians. This Week's guest is Machur Jeffrey (1/6) 9.30 Nigel Ogden 10.39 The Jemesons 11.45 The Set of the Earth (2/7) 12.05em Steve Mackien 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Maga-tine 12.00 Midday with Mair 2.05pm Ruscos on Five 4.00 John Inventible Nationalde 7.00 News Edra with Valerie Sanderson 7.35 Trevor Brooking's Foot-ball Night, Coverage from Highbury of the Premierable clash between Assensiand Manchester United. Includes the results of the National Lottery 10,00 the Beter Line 11,00 News Extra 12,05em After Hours 2,05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

WORLD SERVICE

All firmes in GRAT. News on the hour 5.30mm Europe Today 8.30 Europe Today 7.15 Off the Shelf 7.30 Discovery 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Concert Half 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Andy Kershaw 9.45 Sports Rounclup 10.30 BSC English 10.45 Off the Shelf 11.30 A History of Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Composer of the Month 2.05 Outbook 2.30 Megarith: 3.05 Sports Rounclup 3.15 Concert Half 4.15 World Today 4.30 BBC English 4.46 Britain Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.46 Sports Rounclup 3.15 Britain Today 9.30 Meditar today 5.30 World Business Report 5.46 Sports Rounclup 6.30 Obscovery 7.01 Outbook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 Multitrack 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Meditar to Norest 10.36 World Today 10.45 Sports Rounclup 11.10 Science View 11.15 Country Style 11.30 Multitrack 12.30mm From Our Own Correspondent 12.45 Britain Today 1.30 Outbook 1.55 Words of Faith 2.30 Assignment 3,15 Sports Rounclup 3.30 Meridian Books 4.30 Europe Today

4.00mm Mark Griffiths 6.00 Miles Read 9.00 Henry Keily 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto. Handel (Organ Concerto in B flet major, Op 4 No 6) 3.00 Jamie Crick 7.00 Classic Newsnight, with John Bruming 7.30 Sonatz. Poulenc (Claritte Sonatz. Poulenc (Claritte Sonatz. 8.00 Evening Concert R. Strauss (Also Sonach Zerathustra, Op 30); Schumann (Pieno Concert in A minor, Op 16); Schubert (Symphony No 1 in D, D82) 10.00 Michael Mappin, Includes Noctume 1.00mm Mel Cooper

CLASSIC FM

6.00em Russ 'n' Jone 10.00 Graham Dens 1,00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Home 7.00 Paul Coyte (PM) / Robin Benks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am

4.00 Choral Evensong. Live from

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor, includes Haydh (Symphony No 7 in C, Le Midi); Bax (Violin Concerto) Hidegard of Bingen (Columba Aspesti), Mozart (Piano Concerto No 27 in B

(rans concero No 27 in 8 flat, K595)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday, Includes Grainger (The Warnors); Chopir (Iwo Nocturnes, Op 62); Copland (Ballet, Rodeo)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with

oc); copern gener, with Musical Encounters, with Mary Miller, includes Bach (Cartata No 54); Mendelssohn (Variations Concertantes, Op 17); Sibellus (Seven Songs, Op 17); Mozert (Sevenborn, No.

inceus (seven songs, Op 17); Mozart (Symphony No 27 in G, K199); Mark Ramaden (Adritt in Your Dreams); Alan Bush (Symphony No 2 Nottingham); Bach (Orchestral Suite No 3 in D, BWV 1088)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Pfitzner

1.00pm The Birmingham
Lunchtime Concert. A
performance given in Studio
One, Pable Mill, last Friday
by the Skampa Queriet.
Beethovan (String Quartet in
E minor, Op 59 No 2.
Bestmovefolt: Janacely

2.00 Midweek Choice. Introduced by Susan Sharpe. Includes Dohnany (American Rhapsody); Lortzing (O Sancta Justitia, Zer und

String Quartet No 1, Kreutzei

Zimmatman): Hummel, arr Eichler (Sonata in E flat, op 5 No 3); Gershwin (Rhapsody in Blue)

(Overture on Themes by Offenbach); Liszt (Hungarian Rhapsody No 2 in C sharp rainor)
Sounding the Century: Live from Covert Garder:
Palestrina. The opera by

Patesarma, the opera by Pfitzner in a new production by Nikolaus Letnhoff. With Thomas Moser, tenor, Alan Held, baritone, Ryth Ziesek, soprano, Randi Stene and Catherine Wyn-Rogers, mezzos, and Thomas Allen, baritone. With the Royel Opera House Chorus and Orchestra under Christian

Orchesta under Christian
Thielemenn. Act 1
7.35 Why This Whole Game?
Daniel Johnson investigate
the opera's symbolic
significance
7.55 Palestrina Act 2
9.15 You is Whet You Eats.
Russiell Davies introduces.
Russiell Davies introduces. more food from the American

South (3/5) 9,35 Palestrina Act 3 10,45 Night Wayes. Includes a report from the opening night of Chekov's hearow starting Ratch Flennes. Plus Flichard Coles explores the life and work of the German painter

work of the German parmer Lovis Corinth

11.30 Composer of the Week
Schumans (r)

12.30am Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather, Includes a session from Mart Rodger Manchester Jezz lens Through the Night, with John Shee

WORD-WATCHING

THE sport of triathlon has ' setting a target of 5,000 partic-

that triathlon has huge un-tapped potential. We are

inants." Michael Smithwick.

To be held in Docklands on

September 21, the London

Triathlon will bring to the

capital some of the world's

leading professionals while

encouraging lesser mortals to have a go. It is hoped that

will appeal in much the same

way that more than 100,000

people were inspired to run a

the event manager, said.

MAGNANIMITY, right, on the Surrey

station, overhauls Defiance on the way to

victory in the first of two heats in the London

University trials on the Tideway yesterday.

There was a distinctly international look to

the event, with one Olympic bronze medal-

winner, three 1996 world championship

finalists and five of the British under-23 team

from last year spread across the crews.

Magnanimity, in spite of a less satisfactory

MERACIOUS

est in the world.

looked at the London Mara-

thon and seen the future. The

British Triathlon Association

(BTA) is backing plans for a

London Triathlon this year

that is certain to be the biggest

staged in Britain and may

challenge Chicago as the larg-

Unashamedly copying the

successful marathon formula

of mass participation, elite

racing and fund-raising for

(b) Unadulterated, full-strength, pure. A longer form of mere, from the Latin merus. "I'll say one thing about Jones — whatever other people may say about him — you have to admit that all his sins and failings are meracious ones." COCKALORUM

(c) A self-important little prat. From High Cockalorum, a game said to be not unlike leapfrog. The exact rules of this game are obscure. But it seems to have been much like the childish game that is known today as Politics.

(a) Magical. As in Aeaeae artes, the magic arts, The Greek and tin word. It comes from the name of a mythical island found in the Odyssey, and off the coast of Italy so far as it is anywhere in geography rather than the imagination. There lived the pig-fancier Circe, who took Aeaeae as her surname. There are not many other six-letter all-vowel words in English. Elegant, though not high-scoring for Scrabble.

(a) Not anonymous. From the Greek word for a name and having to do with names. A quaint little word. "And I'd appreciate it if you could stop sending me all those onymous letters," you might shout after your unwanted suitor, as he walks crestfallen down a crowded main street after your latest rebuff.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE 1 Rxf8! Kxf8 2 Rd8+ Kg7 (2 ... Ke7 3 Re8 is mate) 3 Rg8+ Kh6 4 g4 and the

PRICES NOW INCLUDE FREE UK DELIVERY TO TIMES READERS (REST OF WORLD ADD 11 PER ITEM). STERLING/US DOLLAR CHEQUES ONLY. (\$1-4\text{US} 1.69\text{US}, 1.69\text{Times} CONSWORDS.- Books 10\text{IL}(2)\text{E1} 2.99\text{ each. The Times Consise-- Book 2 (2-10) puzzles) 52.99\text{.} The Times Consise-- Book 2 (2-10) puzzles) 52.99\text{.} The Times Consise-- Book 2 (2-10) puzzles) 52.90\text{.} The Times Consise-- Consi

mate threat of g5 forces material gain.

and the state of the second of

CITY AIRPORT O'O Cycle THE LONDON TRIATHLON September 21, 1997

Capital gains from enduring challenge

Having run 45 marathons

and contested eight fromman

triathlons. Lunt is well placed

to judge how fit those drawn to

the challenge need to be. "If

you can run a marathon in

five hours, you can probably

do a triathlon in three hours.'

he said. The wear and tear on

the body is less in a triathlon

because of the changing de-

mand on muscle groups as competitors switch between

Promoted by Esprit, a London event marketing and

management company, the

London Triathlon is a

commerical exercise but, once

costs have been met and fees

taken, profits will be split

Union-approved event it will

offer equal prize-money to

men and women. Simon Les-

sing, the world champion,

from Britain, has been made

an appearance offer that

Stefanie Scheer, his manager,

said he was considering. "It is

a great idea," Scheer said. "If

the circumstances are right I

am sure Simon will go." Smithwick said: "We also

hope that Spencer Smith [Brit-

ain's former world champion]

and the top Americans and

As with the London Mara-

than, the professionals get

paid, the amateurs pay: and

triathlons, being more expen-

sive to stage than marathons,

ask higher fees. Entry fees for

the London Triathlon are:

Olympic distance £38; sprint

£30: corporate relay £117.50

"We are encouraged by the

charity appeal of the London

Marathon," Daniel Corbin.

Smithwick's assistant, said.

The event's adopted charities

will be London's Homeless

and the Soldiers, Sailors, Air-

men's and Families Ass-

ociation.

Germans will compete."

As a European Triathlon

equally with the BTA.

more than a half-length advantage. Maurice

Hayes, the university coach, who - in

Jeremy Howick, of Canada, and the Britons

Lake Nolan and Graham Smith — had three

other senior internationals on the sidelines,

said: "With the athletes available, we feel

confident we can go up a peg this year." The

university crew faces an early test next month

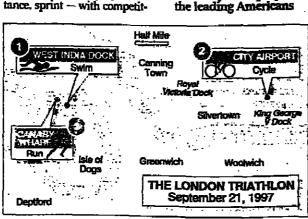
when they start second in the Tideway Head.

marathon through the work of ors sent off in waves according to age or ability - and corporate relay, in which companies will enter teams of one swimmer, one cyclist and one runner. The sprint will be half the Olympic distance of 1,500 metres for the swim, 40 kilometres for the ride and ten kilometres for the run. The relay will be Olympic distance.

The sprint alternative is to encourage entries, although Smithwick stressed: "We do not want to stop people from accepting the challenge of the Olympic distance. You do the



Smith: may line up against the leading Americans



CYCLING

behind Leander. Five internationals also

raced in Wallace and Grommit, the univer-

sity women's coxiess fours, yesterday.

Grommit, with Libby Henshilwood, the captain, at No 3, emerged victors by one

length in a seven-minute race, having trailed

until the last 40 strokes. The same personnel, in an eight, will be racing both the Oxford and Cambridge University women's Boat

Race crews over the next fortright.

Italians set minds to tour success

FROM PETER BRYAN IN KOTA KINABALII

GIANNI BUGNO, of Italy, the former double world road race champion, has denied suggestions that he and Andrea Tafi, his Mapei team colleague, regard the 1,600-kilometre Tour of Langkawi that starts here today as a holiday. "We are here to win and see the race as an important part of our preparation for the new season," he said. The Mapei squad's entry, together with that of a second Italian team, GB-Technogym, will out pressure on the other

Britain - who are racing for E270,000 in prize-money. The starting point of Kota Kinabalu, on Borneo, has involved several teams in an exhausting travel schedule. The Italians were critical that the one time-trial in the race. that will determine the first wearer of the yellow jersey, is on the opening day, even though it is only 19 kilometres long. "We have been travelling for two days, arriving here late

23 teams - including Great

on Monday." Fabrizio Fabbri. the Mapei manager, said. The trial starts with a short. steep climb, but after that the roads are mainly flat and at sea level. A series of sharp bends will make it what Bugno described as "a technical course", however.

John Tanner, who took the race leader's yellow jersey after the first stage last year, has drawn tenth starting position today, which will deprive him of the opportunity to benefit from progress reports of the majority of riders. David Rand, the national road race champion, has fared better, setting off at No 136, with Bugno last to start of the 150 competitors.

RADIO 4 5.55em Shipping (LW) 6.00 News 6.10 Ferming 6.25 Prayer 6.30 Today, includes Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Stx O'Clock News

6.00 Skr O'Clock News
6.30 Counterpoint. The general
knowledge music quiz hosted
by Ned Sharin: (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Face the Facts. John Waite
and his team of investigators
look into listeners' complaints
7.45 20/20: A View of the
Century. In the test of the re-Yestercay ...
Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Mildweek, with
Times columnist Libby Purves 10.00 News; A Good Read (FM).
Sarah Dunant talks to the writer Will Self and the broadcaster Simon Bates

Century. In the last of the current series, Michael Ignetieti looks at the role of creativity in the 20th Century 8.30 Fresh Air. The last collection in the series of features by new radio taler!

9.00 Flashpoints. See Choice (2009) about their favourite paperback books 10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) ers' Question Thrie, (2/4) 9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) 9.59 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with

11.30 Gardeners' Question Time, with Eric Robson (f) 12.00 News; You and Yours, with Lesiey Riddoch 12.25pm Rent, by Lucy Flannery. Staring Barbara Flynn and Patrick Barlow (4/6) 12.55 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robh Lustig 10.45 Book at Bedtime: House of Spiendid Isolation. Written and read by Edna O'Brien (8/10) 11.00 Truly, Madiy, Bietchley. The comedy series written by and starting Julian Dutton. With Liz Fraser, David Battley and Toby Longworth 1.00 The World at One, with Nick

1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Pathola's Progress.
The final part of Tony
Mulholand's political contedy.

With Lucy Tregear and Michael Lumsden (3/3)

2.45 The Vegetable Patch: The Leek See Choice (1/6)

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleldoscope.

Part Cambacchi (assigner) Paul Gambaccini review Nora Ephron's Michael

starring John Travolta and Alison Anders's Grace of My

4.45 Short Story: Food For Thought, by Vincent McInemey. Read by Gerard McDermott

11.15 The Cookbook of Apicius.
A series celebrating the delights of the encient Roman cook. With Keith Floyd (4/5)
11.30 Seymour the Fractal Cat (FM). A comedy series about a taking cat by Gary Parker.
With Greg Proops and John Hegley (1/5) (1)
11.30 Today in Partisment (LW)
12.00 News 12.30am The Latte Book: Regeneration, writien by Pat Barker. Read by Alice Amold (8/10) (8/10) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

Toby Longworth

11.15 The Cookbook of Apicius.

FREQUENCY GUIDE RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8; LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE MW 683, 909. WORLD SERVICE MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Poter Dear, Iam Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

APPENDED ST

There was a curious start to

ast night's Face to Face

(BBC2). According to the

opening titles, we were about to

watch Sir Jeremy Isaacs talking to

Diana Rigg. Shouldn't that be

Dame Diana Rigg, I thought? I checked and indeed it should.

Some people, it appears, wear their honours more lightly than

But that's all by the by, especial-

ly as I have no doubt that the

decision to ditch the damehood for

the occasion was Rigg's. The

important thing about last night's

interview was that it was very

good, with the old format (spoth)

subject, unseen inquisitor) show-

ing that, every now and then, it can

still deliver. Much credit for that

belongs to Isaacs. Or do I mean Sir

It must have been tempting just

to flirt with her. Everyone, after all.

flirts with Rigg and when she's in

the right sort of mood, she flirts

No.

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3.00

Macro 4

WALEN TO

Long Play (7281575) SKY NEWS

12.00 The Black Stallion Returns (1983) (43161) 2.00pm The Man with One Red Shoe (1985) (244161) 3.40 Fath is the Hunter (1964) (943105) 5.30 Hercurles and the Circle of Fire (1964) (41155) 7.30 E News Week (627) 8.00 Top Dog (1964) (61105) 70.00 Hermined (1965) (797) 11.55 Red Shoe Diarles: Highly (1964) (1965) (25277) 1.25cm Fall (1965) (25277) 2.50 Double Cross (1994) (574287) 4.20 Hercurles and the Circle of Fire (1964) (704310) The State of Fire (1964) (704310)

back and you instantly get lovely television. The only problem is that it's been done dozens of times minutes.

The only problem is that think the first "er . . " came after 19 minutes.

This is a stories of times think the first "er . . " came after 19 minutes. before. So to get something new greatest actresses of her generation" flattery. Isaacs went high-

brow — very highbrow. Question three, for example, was "what did you find in the text of Martha's role in Virginia Woolf that particularly appealed to you?" I waited for him to add that she had three hours to answer and would she please write on one side of the paper only, but he didn't. He

went on: "What is acting?"

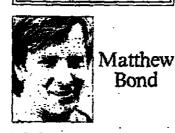
Now, if must be said that Rigg was definitely up for this sort of questioning. Where others might have said "Gosh, that's a difficult one can we start again?" or "Hang on, can I have a think about it?" she managed to answer each one

Flirting, however, turned out to required more than his "lady with be a pleasure postponed rather the superior exterior, one of the than cancelled completely. For having taken us through her craft and the early years of a career that combined the Royal Shakespeare Company with Emma Peel, Isaacs turned to the stage roles that consolidated her reputation in the 1970s and 1980s. Jumpers for some reason came to mind. Lovely play. brilliant playwright, agreed Rigg.
"Taking your clothes off," he
mused all of a sudden, "is that a

good idea?" Looking back, no, replied Rigg with a look that said she knew exactly where this line of questioning was going. But then as far as she could recall, her nucle scene in Jumpers had been pretty tame. "It was my back, wasn't it?" she (whar's your first memory of answered slowly. "Or was it my pleasure in language?") thought bum?" Whichever it was had

REVIEW

Under fire, there is nothing like a dame



clearly left an impression on Isaacs. "Hmm, hmm," he agreed from the darkness. "I think so, I

think so." Apart from the annoyance of creaking joints and the injustice of what she termed "the final crumble" not happening to men until much later, Rigg was very positive about getting older. Perhaps she could have a word with John Pilger, who despite being just the

right side of said crumble spent a self-absorbed hour on Network First (ITV) trying to turn the clock back 30 years. Back to the good old days of trade unions, picket lines and the Vietnam War. Back to the days when Pilger used to get his picture byline on the front page of the Daily Mirror.

As someone who currently gets a picture byline on the inside back cover of The Times, I know exactly how he feels. I'll be cross when somebody takes that away, but 191 be surprised if somebody gives me an hour of television to tell you why. Somebody, however - and for reasons that never became apparent - had given Pilger just

So having spent a dewy-eyed 20 minutes looking back at the glory years of the Mirror, he switched to attack. He blamed Robert Maxwell ("the great embezzler") for timed to ensure that higher matheturning his beloved paper into a family photo album, and he mystery to the rest of us. Last

blamed Rupert Murdoch ... well, for everything else. The accusations were familiar, but what was not was the sight of first Hugh Cudlipp, the Mirrors distin-guished former Editor-in-Chief, and then Lewis Moonie, Labour's spokesman on broadcasting, rallying to Murdoch's defence.

But as Pilger railed against the dying of once-fashion-able left-wing causes (let's have more labour disputes on the front pages), he never once stopped to consider that it might be he who was to blame. That the world had moved on and he hadn't. Never mind, I would say that, wouldn't I - just remind me that I wrote it when my own time comes.

Finally it was time for my weekly fix of Fisher Dilke, the mathematician who appears des-

night, in The Number Game (BBC2), he was at it again with Bayesian statistics. Bayesian what? Don't ask me - all I know is that it's a great help when you've got your yellow balls and red balls mixed up and second to none at telling whether spots on the face mean you also have measles. But according to the well-intentioned Dilke, it is a precise way of dealing

with uncertainty.
Unfortunately, the best-known application of Bayes theorem to the real world involved a rape case, a subject that did not sit easily with Dilke's jaunty manner or prove

very enlightening.

The fact that the conviction was quashed on appeal turned out to have nothing to do with statistics and DNA samples and everything to do with the fact that the original trial judge had been so busy explaining Bayes theorem to the jury that he forgot to direct them properly. I sympathised.

B8C1

6.00am Business Breakfast (48277) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (43635) 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (1) (8635987) 9.20 Style Challenge (1292426) 9.45 Kilroy (6623890) 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (88635) 11.00 News (T) and weather (6209093) 11.05 The Really Useful Show (3100242) 11.35 Change That (5011971) 12.00 News (T) and weather (6218819) 12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5894987) 12.30 Going for a Song (7178722) 12.55 The Weather Show (34129068) 1.00 News (T) and weather (46722) 1.30 Regional News (98119451) 1.40 Neighbours (T) (20615242) 2.05 Police Rescue (T) (9018345)

> 2.55 Put it to the Test (2880068) 3.20 Holiday Outlings Bahía in Brazil (r) 3.30 Playdays (r) (1597432) 3.50 Chucklevision (1411068) 4.10 Popeye and Son (9691906) 4.35 The Wild House

(T) (6012600) 5.00 Newsround (T) (7986068) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (1269242) 5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (317161) 6.00 News (T) and weather (884) 6.30 Newsroom South East (364)

7.00 Noel's Telly Years Singer and presenter Cheryl Baker and jockey Bob Champion recall some of the highlights of 1981 (T) 7.30 Tomorrow's World British Clympic hurdler Colin Jackson tests a newly

designed starting block. Plus: how a magnetic scanner is helping bereaved parents discover why babies die, without having to tace an autopsy (1) (548) 8.00 The National Lottery Live Cathy Dennis

sings her latest hit, Waterloo Sunset, before pressing the millionalre-making button (I) (789567) 8.15 25 Years of the Two Ronnies Classic comedy clips (1) (529242)

8.50 Points of View (386529) 9.00 News (T) and weather (8345) 9.29 National Lottery Update (250364)

9.30 insiders new uran on the set in an open prison on the Suffolk coast. With Robert Cavannah, Bill Nighy and Julia Ford (1) (280703) 10.25 Sportsnight presented by Desmond Lynam, Football Highlights of Assena's top-of-the-table FA Premiership clash with Manchester United at Highbury,

Tennis: Ray Stubbs presents a profile of Tim Henman, Britain's highest-ranked player for 20 years (245890) 11.25 FILM: Darkman (1990) with Liam Neeson, Frances McDormand and Colin Friels. A grotesquely disfigured scientist plots a gruesome revenge on the vicious gangsters responsible for mutilating his stures. Horror thriller directed by Sam

Raimi (692529) 12.55em FILM: Lifeline to Victory (1993) with Michael Riley, Simon Revnolds, Michael Hogan and Henry Czemy. Second World War drama about a troubled sea captain. Directed by Eric Till (996136) 2.30-2.35 Weather (8640049)

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: The Emergence of Greek Mathematics (6599345) 6.45
From Micro to Mainframe (6591180) 6.50
Isomorphism (5405426) 7.15 Naws (1)
7.30 Captain Cavernan (1498426) 7.55
Racord Breakers Gold (r) (1) (7985971)
8.20 Teddy Trucks (9730884) 8.25 Spot (1368971) 8.35 The Record (9064703)
9.00 Jeunes Francophones (1376432)
9.25 See You, See Me (8645364) 9.45
Words and Pictures (3911987) 10.00
Playdays (25797) 10.30 Numbertime (7795285) 10.45 Cats Eyes 11.00
Around Scotland (2112797) 11.20 Music Makers (7280242) 11.40 Science in Action (1483600) 12.00 Spanish Globo (6209161) 12.05pm History File (6209161) 12.05pm History File (5892529) 12.30 Working Lunch (24971)

1.00 Geography Programme (15811819) 1.20 Thunderbirds in French 1.25 Zig. Zag 1.45 Come Outside 2.00 Teddy Trucks (i) 2.05 Spot (i) 2.10 Everyone's Got One 3.00 News (i); Westmirster (2499722) 3.55 News (i); Today's the Day (277) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (161) 5.00 Esther (9616) 5.30 The Village (316432) 5.55 Turning Points (733548) 6.00 Star Treic The Next Generation (r) (1)

(359628)6.45 Trev and Simon's Transmissio impossible (232529)

7.00 Hancock (b/w) (r) (T) (2180) Counterblast Scientific writer Nicholas Booth examines the doom merchants' predictions of environmental disasters (T) (890)

8.00 Delia Smith's Winter Collection (r) (T) 8.30 Rick Stein's Fruits of the Sea Rick prepares a regout of turbot and scallops for the Royal Navy (T) (7635)

9.00 The Aristocracy Who has and who has not cashed in on the tourist industry. Last in series (1) (195155) A Women Called Smith An 18-part series about women

who share the same surname, beginning



Jonathan Meades and co (10.00pm)

Even Further Abroad: Remember the Future: Times columnist, Jonathan Meades returns once more to search for the quintessentially British (T) (78258)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (662703) 11.15 This Life (r) (1) (817971)

12.00 The Midnight Hour (75812) 12.30am The Learning Zone: O.U.: The Ocean Floor (82833) 1.00 Jamaica and the Sea (89407) 1.30 Fertility Management (7) (95556) 2.00 Documentary Scrapbook (72865) 4.00 English Heritage (48223) 4.30 Unicel in the Classroom (60372) 5.00 Modern

CHOICE Counterblast: The End of the World?

BBC2, 7.30pm When Nicholas Booth takes on the environmental lobbyists and accuses them of environmental lobbyists and accuses them of overstaining their case, whether on global warming or the depletion of the ozone layer, you are entitled to wonder about his credentials. It takes guts to fly in the face of orthodoxy, even if it is orthodoxy of comparatively recent vintage. In fact Booth is deputy editor of this newspaper's Interface supplement and if you are refuctant to believe him, he calls expert winesses to back up his charges. One of the principal arguments of the film is that the greenhouse effect is not the most important factor in climate change. Another is that the explosion climate change. Another is that the explosion of foreign holidays in the sun, rather than the depletion of the ozone layer, is the main reason for the increase in skin cancer.

Insiders: Vat Man

BBC1, 9.30pm As Porridge demonstrated, prison is the ideal site for dramatic conflict. There are ready-made tensions between prison officers and immates, and further sources of friction between those serving time and their loved ones at home. *Insiders* neglects none of these possibilities and since it is the creation of Lucy Gannon, of Peak Practice and Soldier, Soldier, well-crafted middlebrow fare is guaranteed. Gannon pays deliberate homage to Porridge at one point but she rings the changes on the genre by making her prison an open one. This means, among other things, the chance for a better class of villain. Tonight's leatured immate is a minor aristocrat (Bill Nighy) who has been done for tax fraud. Perhaps the plot is fuelled by too many coincidences, but it rolls smoothly along and grips to the end.

A Woman Called Smith BBC2, 9.50pm

Given its format, this series of ten-minute films could run for centuries. As the title implies, each programme features a female Smith. As there are at least 800,000 already. and more born every year, the material should never run out. Sarah Smith, a 19year-old from Dudley, is first on screen. She is the mother of a five-year-old boy, so it takes no feat of arithmetic to work out how young she was when she gave birth. In the unexplained absence of the father, she and young Darryl live with her parents. They were upset at first but have become supportive. So much so that they both work overtime to pay for her passion of ballroom dancing. The cameras follow her to Blackpool for the final of the under-21 championship. It is a small film but a meaty one, and done with style.

Even Further Abroad With Jonathan BBC2, 10.00pm

As readers of his restaurant critiques in this newspaper will know, Jonathan Meades is no mean wordsmith. As viewers of his previous television series will remember, he supplements his clever word play with an extravagant visual style, courtesy of a extravagant visual style, toothesy of a cameraman willing to look for the oddest angles and an editor alert to the jumplest cuts. Content is something else and even after half an hour of brilliant prose and dazzling images, it is not absolutely clear what Meades is on about. He appears to say that having some new technology mad in the that having gone new technology mad in the 1960s, Britain has regressed and is facing the future through the past. Buildings are the raw material for Meades's argument. He seems to like 1960s power stations and university campuses and to loathe the Prince

HTV. 6.00am GMTV (1106155) 9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (1373345) 9.55 Regional News (T) (5358109) 10.00 The Time, the Place (18451)

10,30 This Morning (33538068)

12.20pm Regional News (T) (6207703) 12.30 News (T) and weather (1004364) 12.55 Shortland Street (T) (9544646) 1.24 HTV Crimestoppers (98302971) 1.25 Home and Away (T) (15601432) 1.50 Afternoon Live (20793074) 2.20 Vanessa

(30692074) 2.50 Attemoon Live (5609616) 3.20 News (I) (9703221) 3.25 Regional News (T) (9818502) 3.30 Tots TV (7316906) 3.40 The Blobs (9934068) 3.50 Roger and the Rottentrolls Election Special (1)

(1) (7310722) 4.05 Gogglewatch: Gaps of Goggles (1) (2289884) 4.15 Woof! (9685345) 4.40 Gogglewatch. Gaps of Goggles (2812161) 4.55 Gogglewatch Competition (1) (3920529) 5.10 Look and Cook (r) (7659345) 5.40 News (T) and weather (762242)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (193744) 8.25 HTV Weather (347890) 6.30 HTV News (T) (432) 7.00 Emmerdale Marion and Butch investigate Barry's secret (T) (6906)



Beverley Callard as Liz (7.30pm)

continues his attempts to woo Liz McDonald (T) (616) 8.00 The Match -- Live! Coca-Cols Cup Semi-Final, First Leg Bob Wison introduces coverage from Edgeley Park of the clash between Stockport County and Middlesbrough (T) Followed by Netional Lottery Result (6654)

10.00 News (T) and weather (92884) 10.30 Regional News (T) (973971) 10.40 FILM: F/X: Murder by Illusion (1986) with Bryan Brown, Brian Dennehy and Diane Venora. A special effects expert is hired to stage the mock killing of a Mafia gangster. But his stunt turns out to be too life-like and he becomes the target of hitmen. Directed by Robert Mandel

12.40am Dating the Enemy (8518310) 1.40 Fit.M: Always Remember I Love You (1990) with Palty Duke, Stephen Dorff and David Birney. A family are torn apart when a 16-year-old discovers he was adopted from birth, matter are made worse when the family are told the doctor who handled the adoption dealt in stolen babies. Directed by Michael Miller

(359117) 3.35 Not Fade Away (2341594) **4.30** The Time, the Place (r) (T) (64198) 5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (33730) 5.30 News (25317)

CENTRAL

As HTV West excent: 12,55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (7188109) 5,10-5.40 Shortland Street (7659345) 6,25-7.00 Central News (692161) 1,45em The Chart Show (662310) 2.45 Comedy Central (653662) 3.45 Central Jobfinder '97 (189827) 5.20 Asian Eye (2474339)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except 12.20om-12.30 Illuminations (6207703) 12.55-1.25 Emmerdale (7188109) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7659345) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (68056)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (7188109) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7659345) 6.00 Meddian Tonight (180) 6.30-7.00 Home Truths (432) 5.00am Freescreen (33730)

ANGLIA As HTV West except:

12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (6226838) 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (7188109) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7659345) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (692161)

S4C Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (31987) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (36345) 9.00 Bewitched (75161) 9.30 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (2094161) 9.55 The Crystal Maze (9131987) 10.55 Back to the Future (4299258) 11.20 The Legend of White Fang (2116513)

11.45 Rocko's Modern Life (1566987) 12.00 House to House (99797) 12.30pm Here's One I Made Earlier (22567) 1,00 Slot Melthrin (39432)

action thriller with Richard Widmark, Gary Merrill and Jeffrey Hunter. Widmark heads an underwater demolition team against the Japanese in the Pacific. Directed by Lloyd Bacon (76128616) 3.15 Scrimpers (2144600)

3,30 Collectors' Lot (838) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (345) 4.30 Wings: Out of the Wilderness (529) 5.00 5 Pumo (1884) 5.30 Countdown (109) 6.00 Newyddion 6 (444780) 6.05 Heno (913242)

6.35 Jacpot (354180) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (665513) 7.25 Ffermio (720838) 8.00 Hawlio (7068) 8.30 Newyddion (2703)

9.00 Soin City Comedy with Michael J. Fox Ashley has a chance of a lifetime (8155) 9,30 Roseanne Roseanne and Jackie check into an exclusive health spa (58613) 10.00 Brookside (978616)

10.35 ER Abby teaches Peler Benton some tough lessons (155838) 11.30 Dressing for Breakfast (12277) 12.00am Under the Moon (291759)

6.00am Sesame Street (31987) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (36345) 9.00 Bewitched (r) (75161) 9.30 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (r) (f) (2094161) 9.55 The Crystal Maze (r) (9131987) 10.55 Back to the Future (r) (913198/) 10.35 Sack to the Politile (1) (4299258) 11.20 The Legend of White Fang (r) (2116513) 11.45 Rocko's Modern Life (1566987) 12.00 House to House (99797) 12.30pm Here's One I Made Earlier (r) (22567) 1.00 Cybill (r) (T) (39432) 1.30 Pat and Mat (11207451)

CHANNEL 4

1.50 FILM: Down Argentine Way (1940) with Dom Ameche and Betty Grable. Musical with a hint of romance. Directed by living Cummings (18601906)

3.30 Collectors' Lot (1) (838) 4.00 Fitteen-to-One (1) (345) 4.30 Countdown (1) (529) 5.00 Rick Lake Let's Elope and Let Them Cope (T) (1884) 5.30 Pet Rescue

6.00 Party of Five Claudia seeks supernatural help for her family problems (T) (161616) 6.50 Fresh Pop (870838)

7.00 Channel 4 News (T) and weather (828819) 7.55 The People's Agenda (267635) 8,00 Brookside Tinhead puts Leo in danger

with his new toy (T) (7068) 8,30 Travelog Andy Kershaw visits one of the world's poorest countries --Mozambique. The former Portugese democracy after years of civil war, is rich in culture and history, though Kershaw deserts the 2,500km of beaches to discover its invisible elephants, cardboard televisions and on a more serious note, discovers the problems facing the people as a result of the landmines left

over from the war (1) (2703) 9.00 Fortean TV Father Lionel Fanthorpe investigates medical maggots, a canine apparition and Britain's answer to the Holy Graul (1) (8155)

9.30 Brass Eye Controversial comedy from Chris Morris (T) (58613)



10.00 ER: No Brain, No Gain Abby teaches Benton some harsh lessons. Carter clashes with another intern and begins a clandestine relationship. Susan (Sherry Stringfield) shocks Mark (T) (3161)

11.00 Friends: The One Where Ross Finds Out Ross discovers Rachel's leelings when she leaves a confusing message on his answerphone (r) (7) (3600) 11.30 Cheers Drake has a hidden agenda

when he promotes Sam above Rebecca (r) (T) (12277)

Gordon Ellett (9566074) 2-30 The Heat is On (4343432) 3,00 Take a Letter (7806109)

On (434342) 3,00 Take a Letter (7805103) 9,20 Talkabout (4705797) 4,05 Jerry Springer (1570667) 5,05 Lingo (66150529) 5,30 Lucky Ladders (4354548) 6,00 1 Dream of Joannie (8722987) 6,35 Ready, Sleady, Cook 11660884) 7,05 Brooksate (1800345) 7,40 Who's Sorry Now? (2219703) 8,05 Robonta (4195364) 9,00 Přillik Broken Pledges (8)04884) 17,00-12,00 Sex Lile Down Under (9644695)

S.00pm Prize Time (6874513) 5.05 Blockbusters (1228180) 5.35 Prize Time (217242) 5.50 Spellbound (120242) 6.50 Prize Time (247871) 6.30 Calciptrase (606180) 6.55 Prize Time (597513) 7.05 Sale of the Century (575906) 7.30 Prize Time (159068) 7.40 Gaves Us a Clue (745838) 8.10 Prize Time (771088) 8.20 Au Count Lin (698516 8.50 Prize Time

(74589) 8.10 Prize Into (77188) 82.0 Prize Timo (912432) 9.00 Through the Keyhole (912432) 9.00 Through the Keyhole (964426) 9.25 Prize Timo (914451) 9.35 Busmen's Holiday (259155) 10.00 Prize Timo (936567) 10.05 Treasure Hunt (724242) 11.05 Prize Timo (958839) 11.20

The at First Sight (879555) 11.45 Pros Time (742838) 12.00 Sale of the Century (29914) 12.30em Hart to Hert (81001) 1.30 Lou Gram (18845) 2.30 Snowly River — the McGregor Saga (75486) 3.30 All Together Now (17914) 4.00-5.00 The Fall Guy

7,00am Jeagran 7,30 News and Euroneus

CHALLENGE TV

12.00 Under the Moon Danny Kelly and Tim Clark host more sporting chat Includes reports on the two Coca-Cola Cup semifinals (291759) 2.30 am NBA XXL (34551)

4.30 Transworld Sport (15730) 5.30 Backdate (r) (T) (25399)

2.30 NBA XXL (34551) of Wales's model village in Dorset. But this could be wrong.

Peter Waymark Apprenticeships (46204) 5.30 Voluntary 4.30 Trans World Sport (2439407) SATELLITE AND CABLE 1 - 4 -- 2 Table 1 --

SKY 1 8.00em Morring Glory (492093) 9.00 Regis and Kathie Lee (18543) 10.00 Another World (97425) 11.00 Days of Cus Lives (1954) 12.00 The Oprah Windrey Show (1955) 1.00pan Gerako (49259) 2.00 Saly Jessy Repnesi (48259) 3.00 Jenny Jones (7834) 4.00 The Oprah Windrey Show (1884) 9.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (1955) 6.00 Regis TV (1345) 6.30 Married — with Chicken (1977) 7.00 The Simpsons (1984) 7.30 Marks 11 (1109) 8.00 non Creget 19/97/7/00 the Stripsons (3884) 7.30 M*ATSTH (1109) 8.00 Sgftangs (61141) 9.20 Sik Stallangs (91635) 10.00 Mander One (91722) 11.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (98155) 12.00 LAPU (48914) 12.30 team The LLD/

• For more comprehensive

listings of satellite and cable

channels, see the Directory.

published on Saturday

7,00pm Heralios. The Legendary Journeys (5592180) 8,00 Renegade (5405600) 9,00 New York Undercover (5598561) 10,00 Water Rass (5591651) 11,00 Line Show with David Letterman (5867549) 12,00 H4 Miss

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletims on

SKY MOVIES 6.30cm Semeone Else's Child (1994) (94616) 8.00 Singercach (1965) (60636) 10.00 Linia Big League (1994) (50616) 12.00 The Binck Stallion Refurms (1983)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL 8.00m My Neighbour Totaro (1993) (8068) 7.30 Robinson Crusos (1972) (8115) 2.30 Swallous and America (1974) (73567) 20,00 Say One for Ma

(1959) (46163) 12.00 Brothers' Destiny (1996) (41703) 2.00pm The America Partite Adventure (1995) (83616) 4.00 Time Warries: Trappied on Try World (1995) (8229) 6.00 Heart and Souts (1993) (8180) 8.00 The Natt Karate Vid (1994) (61167) 10.00 The United Super-ted (1994) (61167) 10.00 The United Superpacts (1995) (82890) 11.45 The Wrong Woman (1995) (183242) 1.20am Schames (1996) (556339) 3.00 Forbidden Choloss (1894) (531865) 440 The Amening Pands Adventure (1995) (5797862)

SKY MOVIES GOLD 8.00pm The Lenton Drop Kid (1981) (8102428) 8.00 The Party (1986) (8107971) 19.00 Allens: The Director's Cut (1986) (1915/7635) 12.35em House of Games (19167) (893/7020) 2.20 Return of the Bad Men (1948) (42679848) 3.50-5.45 Call Me Macham (1957) (3588682) CARTOON NETWORK/INT

Continuous continuous from Sam to Spini, then TNT firms as tollows 9.00pen This Adventures of Robin Hood (1938) (29684616) 11.00 High Society (1958) (80342180) 12.55 Creat of the Weve (1954) (55005827) 2.35 The Hour of Thirteen (1952) (71088049) 4.00-5.00 ion Stations (1859) (78601136) THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.
6.00m. Big Garage (6278567) 6.15
Muppet Babes (885573) 6.40 The Care
Bears (349572) 7.05 Enchanted Teles:
The Prince and the Patper (1438810) 7.55.
The Little Marmaid (2331074) 8.20 Alacidin
Republis 18.45 Charle Pack (23020202) 9.10 The Little Mermaid (23311) auto 114 auto 1158494511 8.45 Cusck Pack (2302242) 9.10 Brand Sporthing New Doug (8335093) 9.35 Mortry Ducks (4708860) 10.00 Good Troop (256703) 18.25 Darkwing Duck (851180) 10.95 Timon and Pumbae (8369761) 11.15 Bonkers (185093) 11.45 Cusck Attack (7410897) 12.10pm Mouse Tracks (7410897) 12.10pm Mouse Tracks (7366722) 12.35 The Lunie Mermaid (4667242) 1.00 Flapor (9391180) 1.45 Timon and Pumbae (9466797) 2.00 FILME Main of the Heuse (596180) 3.46 Bonkers (1806722) 4.85 Goot Troop (8760809) 4.30 Cusck Pack (2065) 5.00 Aladdin (9362242) 5.26 Flash Foward (8302277) 8.45 Timon and Pumbae (683345) 6.00 Mightly Ducks (9161) 8.38 Boy Meds World (7513) 7.00 Almost Horne (1800) 7.30 Dr Outon (183987) 8.15 Touched by an Angel (833987) 9.00 Life's World (85229) 9.30-10.00 Golden Girls (94345) 9451] 8.45 Quack Pack (4302242) 9.10

FOX KIDS NETWORK

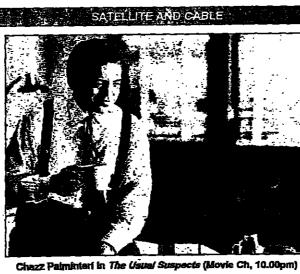
FOX KIDS NET WORK

8.00mm Three Little Chosts (7433529) ## 2.30 Inspector Gedget (8876109) 7.30 Sergers Pizze Carts (5772800) 7.30 Eagle Riders (886053) ## 2.00 Teernage Murant Hero Turtles (533889) ## 2.00 Medical Rider (5337161) ## 2.00 Big Bad Beatleborgs (5455513) ## 2.00 Power Rangers Zeo (9806074) 10.00 Casper (9850161) 10.30 Ace Ventura (5451737) 11.30 Lie with Lune (937432) 11.30 Eek Starnagers (94037432) 11.30 Eek Starnagers Zeo (937432) 11.30 Eek Starnagers Zeo (937432) 11.30 Heytharder (5777971) 1.30 Eegle Ficiers (980161) 2.00 Mutant Hero Turtles (5121890) 2.30 Mesked Roder (3125083) ## 3.00 Big Bad Beatleborgs (594593) 3.30 Big Bad Beatleborgs (594593) 3.00 Big Bad Beatleborgs (594533) 6.00 Gaoseburnas (3125722) 6.30-7.00 Sweet Velley High (3117074) SKY SPORTTS 1

SKY SPORTS 1 7.00am Sports Cante (30105) 7.30 Wressing: Blest Off (10635) 8.30 Recring News.
(47971) 9.00 Daytone 500 (762364) 12.00
Aerobics Oz Style (21967) 12.30 par Football (88180) 2.30 Ringside Boxing (21432)
4.30 Held of Fame — Dino Zolf (2425) 4.59
Sports Centre (6039838) 5.00 Wresting:
Challenge (2659) 6.00 Sports Centre (8619)
6.30 Grass Roots Rugby (7971) 7.00
Footbelt: Alsenel v Manchester United —
Live (9428523) 10.30 Sports Centre (31384)
11.00 Shooker (16529) 12.00 Sports Centre
Cantel 11.00 Snooker (1852) 12.00 Sports Centre (83198) 12.30mm Futbol Mundlet (77049) 1.00 Choket: New Zeeland v England — Live (1947049) 4.30 Sports Centre (14730) 5.00 Cricket: New Zealand v England

SKY SPORTS 3 12.00 Snocker: International Open --- Live (85021188) 8.00pm Morasport (86738906) 5.30 Goll Exis (78611513) 7.00 Snooker: International Open — Live (54887426) 19.00-11.20 Golf Extra (15480828)

EUROSPORT 7,90mm Athletics: Meeting Vinel Pas de Celate (2557) 9.00 Speed Skanng (95548) 11.00 World Cup Legends (13432) 12.00 Bosing Special: Roy Jones Jr. (2315) 12.30pm Stang Peytide (70797) 1.00 Stant (24548) 1.30 X-Zone (7968) 2.00 Terrus: EC Chemponship — Live (504277) 5.00 Terrus: Harnovier WTA Tournament (2797) 5.00 Motors (51618) 7.00 Terrus: EC Chemptonship — Live (32513) 9.00 Dans



(24987) 10.00 Orag Racing (44884) 10.30 Tennis: ATP Tour (24426) 11.30-12.30em Tennis: Hennover WTA Tournement (26797)

6.00em The Krypton Factor (9574190) 6.30

GRANADA PLUS

6.00mm the Krypton Factor (84/4199) 6.30 Tickle on the Turn (807/18364) 6.48 Abrah's Music (41/480242) 7.00 Absorts (7850425) 7.15 Tickle on the Turn (4477/890) 7.30 Calayan's Ark (4286267) 7.50 Josés Smith (8866797) 8.00 Classoc Coronation Smeti (2672887) 8.30 Families (267/2887) 8.30 The Professionals (877/4388) 10.00 A Fine Romence (8685269) 10.30 Mercel Blessings (2662874) 44.00 Mercel Blessings (2662874) 45.00 Mercel Ble The Professionals (8774340) 10,000 A Fine Romence (8685250) 10,300 Miner Riessings (2894722) 11,000 Within Thesis Weds (39939) 12,300 Classic Coronation Street (2575074) 12,300 Profession Families (2098257) 1,000 Crown Court (3987535) 1,200 The Krypton Factor (3418708) 2,000 A Femily of Wer (3566987) 3,000 Procedude (2017277) 4,000 The Doctor Series (165190) 4,300 A Fine Romence (6161384) 5,000 The Professionals (3858345) 8,000 Classic Coronation Street (6159628) 6,300 Familios (6173108) 7,000 The Doctor Series (3650074) 7,300 Spreig (b) 198-200 August (b) 197-47 7.90 The Doctor Senes (2859074) 7.90 Mored Blassange (5162093) 8.00 Floodfide (1957516) 9.00 Classes Coronanon Street (5669830) 9.95 The Good Life Guide (4064890) 10.00-11.00 The Professionals

GRANADA GOOD LIFE From 6.00mm-9.66 TV High Street From 9.00-12.00 Food and Wine

rom 3.00-8.00 Home and Garden

THE HISTORY CHANNEL 4.00pm Brography. The Virgin Mary (3784635) 5.00 History Alve (4520548) 6.00 Our Century (3265109) 7.00-8.00 Biography: Emperor Historico (1284884) THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

B.00ptn Fil.M: Allen (1979) (4894516) 10.30 Fil.M: Dune (6511109) 1.00am The Twilight Zone (6914198) 1.30 Tales of the Unespecied (2834730) 2.00 100 Years of Honor (9127020) 2.30 Fod Sering's Night Gallery (9113827) 2.00-4.00 Friday the 13th (3044681) TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am The Joy of Parning (2901838) 9.30 Grow Your Own (7604613) 10.00 Surprise Chels (7036835) 10.30 Our House (290722) 11.00 The Parnied House (7029155) 11.30 This Citi House (720984) 12.00 Smply Delcous Mocks (2981074) 12.30pm Gruham Mer (9509249) 1.00

Todav's Gournet (1451797) 1,30 Home

2.30 Furniture to Go (2/18880) 3.00 No/5 Country (58/16059) 3.00-0.00 This Old House (27/1655) DISSCOVERY takes over at 4.00pm. 4.00pm Psting Adventures II (2826242) 4.30 Bush flucker Man (2622426) 5.00 Connections 2 (5828838) 5.30 Beytond 2000 (27/19905) 6.00 Wed Prings (4654398) 7.00 Beytond 2000 (680274) 7.30 Pst Outsian Forces Beyond (2623155) 8.00 Mysterous Forc NK GOLD

7.00am Tabyziack (7864890) 7.36 Neighbours (3445635) 8.00 Crossroads (9591548) 8.26 EastEnders (2535154) 9.00 The Bit (2807068) 9.30 The Boswells (5804631) 10.00 Neverthe Tweln (7037093) 1930a531 10300 venerim in 1931 (1931 (1931) 11.00 Sheesing (1555567) 12.00 Crossteds (293432) 12.30pm Neighbours (7793267) 1.00 EastEnders (1974564) 1.35 Rose (634884) 2.15 A Lidle Bit of Dawson (61982155) 2.25 Sonyl (226680) 3.00 Tellystock (5518451) 3.30 The Bit Office Control (5618651) 3.30 Th (2712093) 4,00 Al Creatures Great and Small (7118093) 5,00 Bob's Full House (5249890) 6,40 Crossroads (6896513) 6,05 EastEnders (3150277) 6,40 Bruce Forsym's Generation Game (51662093) 7.50 Are You Being Served? (5842797) 8.30 Russ Abbot (5805987) 9.00 The Bill (7114277) 8.30 The Paradise Club (90070074) 10.35 Bottom \$116161; 11.15 Live at Jongleus (3189180) 11.45 FILM: And New the Screening Starts (5560345) 1.20am Marn Vice (2705001) 2.10 Shopping at

8.00em Hellwey Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (95600) 6.30 Ocean Octyssey (14245) 7.30 Escape from Jupiter (35277) 7.30 Flash Gordon (41854) 8.00 Betman (84426) **8.30** Dennis the Menace (83797) (84425) 4.30 Cernis the Menace (83797, 9,00 Earthworm Jm (72277) 9.20 Bobby's World (16567) 10.00 Romuald the Rendear (1597) 10.30 Europoud (89161) 11.00 Danger Mouse (51567) 11.30 Grandelale High (56068) 12.00 Oscaris Orchestra (87513) 12.30pa An Attack (14155) 1.00 Ann of Green Gables (15838) 2.00 Ocean Orlyssey (3258) 2.30 Escape from Jupiter (1906) 3.00 Batman (5093) 3.30 Flash Gordon (6451) 4.00 Earthworn Jun (2258) 4.30-5.00 Dennis the Menace (8242) NICKELODEON

6.00em Tesnage Mutent Hero Turtles (45816) 6.30 Bivar Moe from Mars (90053) 7.00 Captain Smitan (21451) 7.30 Tales from the Cryptioseper (17258) 8.00 Bruno the Kid (4624) 8.30 Hey Amold! (45513) 9.00 Rugrats (2003) 9.30 Rugrats (72155) 10.00 Asahril Real Monsters (81345) 10.30 Doug (38277) 11.00 Rocke's Modern Life (30203) 11.30 Barley Kupper (80762) 12.00 Konan and Kid (29529) 12.30pm The Scorer World of Alex Mars (75971) 1.00 Sister State (2072) 1.30 Moesher (75247) 2.00 The Ferals (5884) 2.30 Wenhome (6432) 3.00 Stiden' Around (7819) 3.30 Asahril Real Monsters (8277) 4.00 Azahril Real Monsters (8284) 4.30 Asahril Real Monsters (8284) 4.30 Asahril Real Monsters (8284) 5.30 Asahril Real Monsters (8284) 5.30 Asahril Real Monsters (8384) 5.30 Asahril Real Monsters (2884) 5.30 Asahril Real Monsters sters (2364) 5.30 Asalthi Real Monsters (7548) 6.00 Press Geng (7161) 6.30-7.00 Are You Alread of the Dark? (5513)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Entertainment UK (9600) 7.30 Researce (1797) 8.00 Researce (8548) 8.30 Marry Python's Plying Cartus (4155) 9.00 Cheers (23529) 8.30 Tax (66635) 10.00 it's Garry Shandling's Show (20258) 10.30 Frasier (3906) 11.00 Arrestrong and Miler (99074) 11.30 Monty Python's Pying Critus (8752) 12.00 The Critic (74440) 12.30am Soap (63391) 1.00 Cheera (31407) 1.30 Tau (47556) 2.00 Entertain ment Uk: (76643) 2,30 Armstrong and Mile (95778) 3.00 Fracier (11643) 3.30-4.00 h's Garry Sharrolling's Show (79730)

BRAVO 8.00pm Robocop (4125123) 9.00 The New Twight Zone (7108345) 9.30 The New Twight Zone (5004839) 10.00 Tour of Duly (2522744) 11.00 FILM: Robocop (2142894) 4664259 1,00mm Robocop (2142894) 2.00 Tour of Duly (5763310) 3.00 FILM: Robid Grappiles (2761933) 5.00 The New Vertical Constant (2761933) 5.00 The New Twinght Zone (9745117) 5,30 The New Twinght Zone (5630310)

UK LIVING 6,00mm Tiny Living (2048616) 9.00 Gladraga and Glamour (2071161) 9.10 Gastrolle (1383425) 10.05 Jeny Springer (3937513) 11.00 The Young and the Rostless (5127548) 11.50 Brookside (2837090) 12.25pm A Day in the Life Of

8.00 Geene Angane 8.30 Mas 9.00 Bengali Sensi: Eber Junbo Mewie 9.30 Abhriein 10.00 Tara 11.00 Tre Low Cal Show 11.30 Dence Mania 12.00 Daraar 12.30pm Wah Janaab 1.00 FILM: Alik Se Badkar Alik 4.00 Public Derrand 5.00 ZEE Zone 5.30 Alik Lala 6.00 Campus 6.30 ZEE and You 7.00 Kamal Kombination 7.35 Bareot April Bast 8.00 News and Euronoms 8.30 Deather 9.00 Pather 19.00 Hit Till He Hat 16.30 Purish Kisheria 11.00 Meno Ya Ne Mano 11.30-12.00 Antaksheri

ZEE TV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, the concert lootage, interviews and the latest music video charts VH-1

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FOOTBALL 44

Guardian Angell keeps Stockport on the right path

SP()RT

RUGBY UNION 45

Auckland given the runaround by Harlequins



WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19 1997

Leadership credentials beyond question after inspirational success in Christchurch

Atherton fires Ashes ambitions

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN CHRISTCHURCH

CHRISTCHURCH (final day of five): England beat New Zealand by four wickets

TRIUMPH and drama jos-tied for England's attention yesterday and there were moments during a nerve-shredding climax to this Test series when it seemed that the titanic achievements of Michael Atherton would be in vain. Victory was sweet justice for a captain whose position can no longer be questioned.

It is the destiny of those who lead indifferent teams to face constant scrutiny and frequent doubt. Atherton has been under this microscope for almost four years now, and sometimes it has not been pleasant, but his perverse ambition to remain in the firing line a little longer is undimmed. No one would dare deny him after he won this match for his side with the most inspiring performance of

Tufnell accused Leading article

Ultimately, it was an unbroken seventh-wicket stand of 76 between John Crawley and Dominic Cork that settled a fluctuating game 16 minutes into its final hour. Without it. England might still have been beaten and the perceptions of their winter's cricket irredeemably scarred. Without Atherton, though, this would not even have been a contest.

The statistics are stagger ing. He was on the field for all but the last three hours and batted through a total of 744 minutes for his scores of 94 not out and 118. His series average was improved to 108 precisely 100 more than he averaged in the two drawn Tests in Zîmbabwe.

Statistics, however, have never been the measure of this man and to play as he did when the stakes were so high and the circumstances so unpromising was one more recital of the unyielding obstinacy that has seen him through so

Atherton knew that a defeat ere, no matter that it might make a travesty of a one-sided series, would undermine all the advances in image and performance that he and his side had made on this leg of the tour. So he did not let it happen, even when the rest of his team played the first half of the Test as if on a course of self-destruction and even when the fourth-innings target was in a territory that only one previous England side had successfully entered, and

that almost 70 years ago Even Steve Rixon, the New Zealand coach, who con-sciously belittled England's backbone through this series. was impressed. Asked if he would give Atherton the captaincy against Australia this summer, he said: "I would give him anything he wants tonight. He was a personal inspiration. I admired the way he went about his job."

The contribution of the cap tain extended beyond his runs. He rallied his players after they had conceded a firstinnings lead of 118, instilling a fresh and positive attitude. The key thing was going out so aggressively for their second innings," he said. "By that, I mean we had the intent to bowl them out, rather than to sit back and watch them build an advantage. I was very keen we should dictate terms and things like Corky bursting through the tunnel onto the field helped set a tone."

Overnight on Monday, though the odds were still in New Zealand's favour, Atherton's presence nagged at their belief. "We knew we had to get him out to win," Stephen When it happened, we were pretty ecstatic." England, although in a position of control. were then suddenly vulnerable in a way that said everything about the stature of their captain.

Atherton had batted through the morning session. first with Andy Caddick for company and then Nasser Hussain. Caddick, the nightwatchman, had a reprieve when Darrell Hair, the umpire, ruled that the ball was



Cork, right, and Crawley celebrate the all-rounder's winning boundary in Christchurch yesterday, leaving Allott to reflect on a series defeat

dead when it jammed between bat and pad before being caught after it dropped onto his boot. He also, hearteningly, mowed Daniel Vettori for six over mid-wicket.

The grip exerted by Vettori on the fourth evening was relaxing as Hussain began to bat with freedom. The teen-'ager continued to direct his attack into the leg-stump rough, and it remained difficult to play with conviction. but either side of lunch England took control for the first

When Atherton was out, nibbling a shade wearily at Nathan Astle after completing his eleventh Test century, only 79 more runs were required The anxiety that has so often followed his fall was fully evident as Hussain was out in the next over, caught trying to withdraw his bat against Vettori, and Graham Thorpe gave a tame return catch to the

Three wickets had fallen for five runs in 16 balls and New Zealand were surging again, their fielding tigerish and their bowling confident. Crawley and Cork, however, who both owed England some resolution in this match,

same bowler.

played with skill, assurance and patience. Cork, determined to atone for his firstinnings aberration, negated Vettori's angle until Fleming felt obliged to take him off.

Vettori had tired, but, after 57 overs in only his second Test, that was no discredit to him. The disappointment, for New Zealand, was that no one else could either contain or penetrate as England's target shrank to 48 at tea, then just 15 when the last hour began.

"It was certainly pretty tense," Atherton said. "I don't like watching in such circum-

stances but I forced myself."

flurry of strokes, Atherton rose, wide-eyed, from the edge of his bench, threw his arms aloft and then hugged the nearest team-mate, who happened to be Alec Stewart.

Later, the fatigue showing around his eyes but the adrenalin still fresh in his voice, he said: "We got in a muddle in this game because they got too many runs and we didn't get enough. New Zealand were the better side for two days but it made a test of character for

us and we came through strongly." Rixon, who offered no ex-

As the match ended in a cuses, said: This series could have ended 2-1 and it could have been 3-0 but today it might also have been I-I If that had happened, I have to say we would have been a bit flattered." England, then, have won an

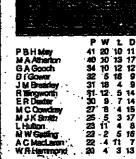
overseas series for the first time in five years. It is easy to say they only beat New Zealand, and it is true that the opposition was fragile. It is also true that this was a victory vital to the avoidance of yet more unhealthy speculation and disruption, for only. with continuity can the national team hope to advance.

Captain to wait for vote of confidence

BY SIMON WILDE

AFTER what has been a turbulent couple of months, even by the standards of recent England cricket captains, Michael Atherton has almost certainly secured his short-term future in the job. His fitness problems, his shortage of runs and his team's lack of success in Zimbabwe have been con-signed to the distant past. However, he may still have to wait to be reappointed to lead England against Australia this summer. First of all, as he stressed yesterday, there are five one-day internationals to play against New Zealand, the first of them in Christ-

church tomorrow. Second, with the transition from the now defunct Test and County Cricket Board to the new English Cricket Board not yet complete, the process of choosing a captain



will probably take longer this

tors in place, nor even a chairman, whose own ap pointment will not come be fore mid-March. By the time that such a group is assembled, the English season could be under way. The first of the Texaco Trophy matches against Australia is at

Headingley on May 22.
It would now be a great surprise, though, if the name belonged to anyone but Atherton. He clearly commanos the overwhelming support of his players and management.

The mood was summed up by Dominic Cork. "He's the right man for the job," be said. "He deserves this victory for the work he has put in. We are now looking forward to taking on Australia -- especially under Mike Atherton's leadership."

TIMES TWO ROSSWORD

No 1021

ACROSS Hurrahl; type of cushion (7) Elvis — (7) Book collection (7) 13 Bot tree-garden (9)

15 Where the angry climb (2,3,4)19 Full-length ball (cricket) (6) Beer makers (7) 23 Of the Prophet's religion (7) 24 Dried, wrinkled (with age)

25 Stop flowing, use tea-towel (3.2)

All flights subject to availability.

Suddenly change course (6) "Who is —? what is she" (Two G. of V.) (6) Welsh passion (4) Origin (6) Crushing embrace (4,3) 10 I wish things were other-wise! (2.4) 12 Till; cheque-writer (6) Censure (7)

Two-legged creature (5)

Sort of monkey; bad mistake (6) Sprawled (6) (Clothes) inadequate (6) 20 Go over again (5) 22 Team; surface (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1020 ACROSS: 1 Cossip 5 Buck 8 Mire 9 Aberrant 10 Castaway 11 Iraq 12 Misfit 14 Enzyme 16 Card 18 Free vote 20 Mallarmé 21 Band 22 Thor 23 Duster DOWN: 2 Origami 3 Spett 4 Play with fire 5 Berlioz 6 Conga 7 Very Reverend 13 Fiddler 15 Matinee 17 Abash 19 Vibes

In association with BRITTSH MIDLAND ACROSS: 1 Get nowhere 7 fanings 8 Lemon 16 Sceptre 11 Screw 12 Endive 15 Demean 17 Arson 18 Camelot 21 Eyric 22 Outrage 23 Pentathlon DOWN: I Genie 2 Tenet 3 Oyster 4 Holy See 5 Remorse 6 Kiss Me Kate 9 Now and then 13 Deserve 14 Vincent 16 Accost 19 Metal 20 Learn

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1016

BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic or international network is R Worboys. 2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic network is M Lowrence, Billericzy, Essex.

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on

England won loss MEW ZEALAND: First Imminos

(72min, 59 balis, 2 tours) HT Davis o Hussain b Croft (46min, 31 balis) G | Allott not out (14min, 18 balls, 1 lour) Extras (5 1, ib 16, nb 19) . Total (129.1 overs, 522min) ... FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14 (Pocock 1), 2-78 (Home 30), 3-108 (Fleming 11), 4-137 (Fleming 25), 5-201 (Penore 25), 6-283 (Carrs 40), 7-268 (Carrs 43), 8-310 (Vetion 7), 9-337 (Davis 7).

BOWLING: Cork 20:3-78-1; Caddict 32:8-64-1; Gough 21-3-70-1; Croft 39:1-5-95-5, Tutnel 16-6-22-0; Thorpe 1-1-0-0. **ENGLAND: First innings** N V Knight a Rieming b Allott (25mm, 22 balls, 2 fours)

IA 3 survent c sub (C Z Harris)
b Allott
(14min, 10 balls, 3 fours)
N Hussain c Parone b Caims ...
(45min, 34 balls, 1 four)
G P Thorpe b Aside
(54min, 48 balls, 3 fours)
J P Crawley c Parone b Allott
(5min, 6 balls)
D G Cork c Parone b Davis ...
(60min, 44 balls, 2 fours)
R D B Croft c Davis b Aside ...
(83min, 67 balls, 5 fours)
D Gough b Vettori
(8min, 9 balls)
A R Caddick c sub (C Z Harris)
b Aflott

5 Affort 4 (26mm, 23 balls) P C R Tufnell c Young 5 Douli 13 (16min, 15 balls, 2 lours)

Extres (to 4, w 1, nb 5) ... Total (84.4 overs, 346min) FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20 (Athenton 6). 2-40 (Athenton 11), 3-70 (Athenton 29), 4-103 (Athenton 42), 5-104 (Athenton 42), 6-145 (Athenton 65), 7-198 (Athenton 85), 8-199 (Athenton 87), 9-210 (Athenton 92). BOWLING: Allort 18-3-74-4, Douli 17-4 3-49-1; Davis 18-2-60-1; Vetton 12-4 13-1; Cairns 8-5-12-1; Astle 11-2-28-2

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings B A Pocock b Cork
(2ron, 4 balls)
B A Young c Knight b Tulnell
(165mp, 135 balls, 5 lours)
†A C Parore c Stewart b Gough .
(63min, 55 balls)

SALE HALSORED MURIEUMSHIS

Total (88.3 overs, 322min) 186 FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0 (Young 0), 2-42 (Young 29), 3-61 (Young 37), 4-76 (Young 45), 5-80 (Calms 0), 6-80 (Calms 4), 7-107 (Cams 8), 8-178 (Vettori 25), 9-184 (Vettori 25).

BOWLING: Cork 6-2-5-1; Caddlek 10-1-25-1; Croft 31-13-48-2; Gough 13.3-5-42-3; Tutnell 28-9-58-3. ENGLAND: Second Innings

J P Crawley not out (149min, 113 bells, 5 fours) D G Conk not out (140min, 123 bells, 5 fours) Extras (b 2, lb 8, w 1, nb 3) ... Total (6 wkts, 146,4 overs, 554min) .307

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-84 (Atherion 29), 2-116 (Atherion 63), 3-146 (Atherion 75), 4-226 (Hussain 33), 5-226 (Thorpe 0), 8-231 (Creating 3). 8-27 (Crawey 3).

BOWLING: Alion: 124-2-32-0 (w 1; 3 fours; 5-2-4-0; 2-0-10-0; 5-4-0-18-0; Davie 18-8-43-0 (nb 2 7 fours; 2-0-17-0; 4-2-11-0; 5-3-2-0; 4-1-12-0; 3-0-7-0; Douli 21-8-57-1 (6 fours; 8-4-20-0; 5-2-8-0; 3-0-14-1; 2-1-8-0; 3-10-63-2; 21-8-34-2; Cairns 10-1-23-0 (nb 1; 1-20-14-12); Cairns 10-1-3-0, 11-3-16-1).

SCORING NOTES: Fifth day: Lunch: 203-3 (95 overs, 350min; Atherton 105, Hussain 24). Tea: 257-6 (128 overs, 480min; Cawley 13, Cork 16), Second new bail: 182-3 (89 overs) at 12.07pm.

England won by four wickets Metch award: M A Americo (Adjudi-cator: F J Cameron).

Umpires: R S Dunne and D B Hair (Australia). Third umpire: D M Quested: Match referes: P J P Burge (Australia). SERIES DETAILS: First Test (Auck und): Match drawn. Second Test (Wellington): England won by an innings and 88 runs.

South Africa rugby coach resigns a former provincial player, Andre Bester, which included a string of obscenities and

abusive comments about Mhileki

George, the senior vice-president of the

South African Rugby Football Union

(Sarfu). The Sarfu executive committee

meets in Johannesburg today, but Louis

Luyt, their president, had already dis-

tanced himself from Markgraaff, whose

Hastings dropped

Auckland shaken .

circulated with copies of the tape, made by but if he is competing outside South

By DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ON THE eve of a new southern hemisphere season, against a backdrop of financial intrigue and a failed drugs test. South Africa lost their national coach yesterday. André Markgraaff resigned in Kimberley after a countrywide outcry against a tape recording on which he is alleged to have made a series of racist

Markgraaff had been in office less than a year and was the subject of another national campaign last summer when he dropped Francois Pienaar, captain of the 1995 World Cup-winning team, from the squad that toured Argentina. France and Wales. Though results on that tour re-established Markgraaff's credentials, he will not now have the chance to pit his remoulded team against the British Isles in June. Over the weekend, media outlets were

decision to quit may have saved the union the embarrassing decision to sack him. That decision comes too late, however, for Pienaar, who is contracted to Saracens for the next two years. Markgraaff had indicated that there would be no place for the former Transvaal flanker in future national teams, although Pienaar is still

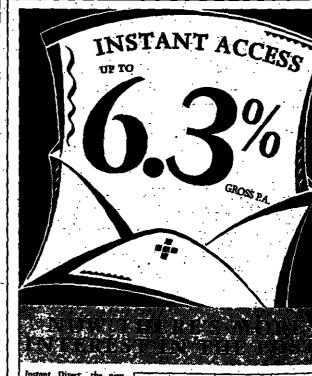
ambitious to play international rugby;

Africa, he is unlikely to be considered by

The most likely successor as coach is Nic Mallett, the former Oxford University Blue, who was assistant to Markgraaff on the autumn tour. Mallett played No 8 for South Africa in the mid-1980s, and has been working with Carel du Plessis, the former Springbok wing; if they take over, they will have one international against Italy on June 12 before the three-match series with the Lions begins.

"It's very unfortunate, particularly when so much has been achieved through South African rugby, that this should flare up, but it's an internal matter for Sarfu," Fran Cotton, the Lions manager, said. "The last thing you want is for anything to undermine what has been achieved in South Africa."

Newcastle will confirm today the signing from Wigan rugby league club of Valaiga Tuigamala, the former New Zealand wing who played for Western Samoa against Ireland last November.



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